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1773-1841.
Messages and letters of
William Henry Harrison

INDIANA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

VOLUME IX

Harrison's
Messages
and Letters

Volume 2
Part 2

GOVERNORS MESSAGES AND LETTERS

VOLUME II

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HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters Chilacothe 17th March 1813

1506628 *Har. Pa. 948-959*

SIR:

I had the honor this day to receive your communication of the 5th Instant. [see above] I have in a former letter informed you that I thought it necessary to reiterate my application to the Governor of Kentucky for the two Regiments which I had requested him to organize for immediate service. This step was taken after the most mature deliberation and upon the fullest conviction not only of its propriety but of its absolute necessity. With the exception of two Remnants of Tribes and a part of another we are now at war with all the Indians, which formed the confederacy that was opposed by the army under General Wayne, with the addition of Several numerious and warlike Tribes and the whole of this savage force directed by the skill of British officers and supported by the steady valour of British veterans. Several important posts have been established in the immediate vicinity of the enemy in which and in those which connect them with the settlements large supplies, have been deposited of immense value from their actual cost and of vital importance to our future operations. With a frontier so extensive to protect and a deposit so sacred to guard against the attempts of any enemy as subtle and formidable as Indians and British when united certainly are—I could not think that a force which in the agregate would not exceed three thousand and which from experience I knew would not amount to two thousand effectives would be two large. The post at the Miami Rapids may be maintained for some weeks with Five hundred or six hundred men. It ought not however in my opinion to have less than twelve hundred. The Forts upon the Auglaize and St. Marys seven in number including Fort Wayne must be kept up to preserve our convoys. That of Lower Sandusky is so important and so easily assailable as soon as the lake is navigable that I feel great apprehentions for it altho' protected by two companies. That at Upper Sandusky has now within its walls upwards of three thousand barrels of Flour Twelve thousand bushels of forage and other valuable stores, surrounded by three hundred Wyandot Warriors whose friendly disposition can not be considered unequivocal. I could not commit its

protection to less than two weak companies. At McArthurs and Findley's Block Houses there are nearly three thousand barrels of flour which also require protection and the Five thousand which are at St. Marys (Girtys Town on the Map) and Amanda (Tawa Town on the Auglaize) cannot descend to the Rapids in safety without escorts even if it were not necessary to send Troops to the Rapids to supply the place of the Virginia and Pennsylvania Militia whose term of service will expire in fifteen days.

*The known candour of your character is a sufficient security for my receiving your pardon for the liberty I take in making objections to the plan of operations communicated in your letter of the 5th Inst. If there is a positive certainty of our getting command of Lake Earie and having a regular force of three thousand five hundred or even three thousand well disciplined men the proposed plan of setting out from Cleaveland and landing on the northern shore below Malden would perhaps be the one by which that place and its dependencies, could be most easily reduced. I am unacquainted with the extent of the preparations that are making to obtain the naval superiority upon Lake Earie, but should they fail and the Troops be assembled at Cleveland, it would be dificult to get again upon the proper track for making the attack round the Head of the Lake. The attempt to cross the Lake from Cleaveland should not be made with any other than well disciplined Troops. A comparatively smaller number of men of this description could effect the object and for those the means of conveyance might be obtained. But the means of transporting such an army as would be required of Militia or undisciplined regulars could not be procured. I can see no reason why Cleaveland should be prefered as the point of embarcation for the Troops or the deposit of provisions and stores. These are already accumulated at the Rapids of Miami or in situations to be easily sent thither to an amount nearly equal to the consumption of a protracted campaign. Altho the expence and difficulty of transporting the provisions, artillery and stores, for an army round the head of the Lake would be very considerable, the Lake being possessed by our ships and the heavy baggage taken in boats along its margin the troops would find no difficulty in the land route. The force contemplated in your letter is in my opinion not suffi-

cient to insure success. Admitting that the whole should be raised by the time pointed out they would be very little superior to militia, the officers having with scarcely an exception to learn their duty before they could instruct their men, we have therefore no alternative but to make up by numbers, the deficiency in discipline. I am well aware of the intolerable expence which attends the employment of a large militia force. We are now however in a situation to avoid the errors which made that of the last campaign so peculiarly heavy. Our supplies are procured and so deposited that the period for the march of the army from the advanced posts can be ascertained to an hour; and of course the troops need not be called out until the moment they are to act. Experience has convinced me, that militia are more efficient in the early than in the latter part of their service. Upon the whole it is my decided opinion that the Rapids of Miami should be the point of Rendezvous for the Troops as well as the principal depot. Indeed it must necessarily be the first deposit, the provisions for the army being so placed that they can be taken to the Lake in no other way. The Artillery and a considerable supply of ammunition are already there. Boats and perouges, have been built in considerable numbers on the Auglaize and St. Marys Rivers and every exertion is now making to increase them, intended for the double purpose of taking down the provisions to the Rapids and for coasting the Lake with the baggage of the army in its advance. I had calculated upon being able partially to use this mode of transportation even if the enemy should continue their naval superiority on the lake— but with this advantage on our side the whole baggage of the army could be safely, and expeditiously carried along the coast in the boats and Perouges which could be taken into the Strait to transport the army to the Canada shore. As I have before observed, the army unincumbered with heavy baggage would find no difficulty in marching round the lake at any season, but what the enemy would create; and we have the means of subsisting a force that would be irresistable. The objection to proceeding in this way stated in my letter to Mr. Monroe arose from the time that would be necessary to construct boats after we should have arrived at the Strait but this objection is entirely obviated by our obtaining the command of the Lake as the boats and perouges built upon the Miami will answer the purpose.

With regard to the quantum of force, my opinion is that not only the regular Troops, designated in your Letter, but a large auxiliary corps of Militia should be employed. The only objection arrises from the expensiveness of troops of that description. This however could not be an object considering the very short time that it would be necessary to employ them. Let the moment for the commencement of the march from the Rapids be fixed, and the Militia might be taken to that point proceed and accomplish the object and return home in two months. Amongst the reasons which makes it necessary to employ a large force, I am sorry to mention the dismay and disinclination to the service which appears to prevail in the western country. Numbers must give that confidence which ought to be produced by warriors valour and intrepidity which never existed in any army in a superior degree than amongst the greater part of the militia which were with me through the winter. The new drafts from this State are entirely of another character and are not to be depended upon. I have no doubt however but a sufficient number of good men can be procured and should they be allowed to serve on Horse Back Kentucky would furnish some regiments that would be not inferior to those that fought at the River Raisin and they were in my opinion superior to any militia that ever took the field in modern times. Eight troops of cavalry have been formed in Kentucky to offer me their services and several of them were intended for 12 months volunteers. Gov. Shelby has some thoughts of taking the field in person; a number of good men will follow him. He thinks that an address from me to the people of the state would produce a good effect. I have strong objections to those addresses but will nevertheless have recourse to one should other means fail of bringing forward a sufficient force.

Every exertion shall in the mean time be used to forward the recruiting service. For a few weeks I think that my services would be more useful in that than any other employment.*[1]

For the want of another officer who is qualified for so important a charge I have been obliged to order Colo. [John] Miller of the 19th to Camp Meigs and have committed the recruiting district to Major [John] Whistler until the arrival of

1. The parts of this letter between the two *'s were underscored by the secretary of war and formed the basis of the ensuing campaign.

Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell who is in the southern part of Kentucky on furlough.

The British emissaries have been throughout the winter amongst the Indian Tribes engaging them for the service of the present spring. The Potawatimies and Miamies alone have agreed to furnish 1000 warriors and the British have promised to meet our army between the Miami Rapids and Malden. The Indians will not want to be cooped up in Malden. Knowing then the point, and having it in our power to fix the hour when the decisive action will be fought—why with such a population as the western country affords should we not have a force that will leave nothing to chance? I must again intreat your pardon for the freedom with which these observations are made and beg you to believe that whatever may be your final orders and however oposed to my own opinions they shall be executed with promptitude and fidelity. I shall be thankful for as early information as may be convenient as to the extent of the command which is intended for me and whether any cooperating expeditions to the westward are intended. Upon this subject my opinion is that feints well supported will answer every purpose of making divertions. It is the intention of the British to assemble for the protection of Malden all the Indians they can get. I do not therefore believe that any attempt will be made by a considerable force upon our settlements to the westward until late in the summer. They may however make demonstrations in that direction to cause a division of our force. Col. [William] Russell of the 7th Regt. has hitherto commanded under my orders in the Indiana Territory. He is I believe now in Kentucky. I shall order him to Vincennes immediately. I am convinced that I can render more service by remaining within the settlements in forwarding the recruiting service and organising the new army than by returning to the frontier. I beg leave to recommend that a Brigd. be sent on to take the command at the Rapids. I have understood that Genl. William Clark is to be appointed a Brigd. Having served several years with this gentleman and having a perfect knowledge of his character and talents I do not hesitate to say that in the kind of warfare in which we are engaged I had rather have him with me than any other man in the United States.

From the concluding paragraph of your letter I have sup-

posed that it was the intention of the President to permit me to nominate the staff of the N. Western army. I have not however done so, and shall wait your further instructions upon the subject.

I have the honor to be with perfect respect

Yr. Hb. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secy. of War*

Indorsed:

Chilicothe 7th March 1813. Major Genl. Harrison. Has reiterated his request to the Gov. of Kentucky for additional forces—states forts and their strengths—thinks the Rapids a point of rendezvous preferable to Cleveland—Does not think the force assigned him sufficient for the object, cannot at first be better than militia—states the great advantage of commanding the Lakes—Col. Russell ordered to Vincennes.

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT March 20th, 1813

Har. Pa. 970-976

DEAR SIR:

By the mail of last evening I was favored by the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. At the time it came to hand Brigdier Genl. Green Clay, and the Field officers of the Detachment now ordered from this State to the Rapids was in council at Lexington to determine on the most suitable places to assemble the troops on the rout to Limestone. Their rendezvous having been previously ordered by my self to be on the 29th inst. Immediately on the receipt of your letter I dispatched an express to General Clay, who will command the detachment, inclosed him a copy of your letter to me and directed him to fix upon such places for the rendezvous as would facilitate the movement of the troops on the rout to Cincinati as you request except such of them as would necessarily come by Limestone from the northeastern part of the state the whole of this detachment being ordered from the north side of Kentucky as it was believed they could join you from eight to ten days sooner than if ordered from the southern quarter of the state. My express to General Clay was instructed to arrive in Lexington this morning by daylight

before the board of officers should disperse. I cannot say exactly what portion of the troops may assemble at Limestone but probably not more than one Batalion.

The Residue of the Militia directed to be organized and detached by the Act of the 3d of Feby. last say 1500 infantry now stand detached from the Militia of this State in pursuance of that Law subject to any future requisition from the General Government.

It was truly unfortunate that you could not accomplish the destruction of the Queen Charlotte as without the command of Lake Erie it is evident to every reflecting mind, that no decent upon Upper Canada by way of Malden, can promise a favourable issue, and it will be madness in the extreme to put to hazard the best blood and interest of our country to attempt it until that event is effected, very many considerations might be urged in support of this opinion which have no doubt occurred to you, and are unnecessary for me now to repeat. I fear however that the British are also constructing vessells of War and that when the Spring opens they will be able to counteract us upon the Upper Lakes. It is said by some of the prisoners taken at River Raisin that seventy ship carpenters were met on the way to Malden by our men on their march to Fort George besides the enemy have many harbours of which we know nothing and at which they may be erecting vessels of war, whose timber and etc. are at places entirely out of our reach or conception.

The citizens of Kentucky feel a deep interest in the event of future operations against the enemy and I have no doubt if such measures for the reduction of Malden was adopted, as to promise success to the enterprise that the inhabitants of this state would litterally rise in mass to effect its destruction, and revenge the massacre of our fellow-citizens. It would be the extreme of folly and madness to enter upper Canada with a force barely sufficient to effect the conquest of any particular place. Our force should be an imposing one an army in which all would have confidence and success not less than from ten to fifteen thousand men—This would draw out men of talents, wealth, and influence, from whose exertions and enterprise everything might be expected that can be achieved by any set of men on earth. But my dear Sir, if our success is to depend on half measures such as have been too often experi-

ceed during the late campaign, nothing more need be expected from Kentucky than what will be coerced by the Law of the Land, I wish sincerely that this subject could be impressed, deeply impressed upon the mind of our beloved President, that when he does invest you with power to make a decent upon Canada, that he would also authorize you to call for a force competent to the great object in view nor do I believe that any force ought to cross above until a sure foothold was obtained below to keep the enemy imployed in that quarter.

Governor Edwards has recently informed me that he has obtained satisfactory information that the British agents are extremely busy about the Lake Michigan and that quarter. That Dixon is embodying the Indians and has artillery, military stores etc. at Chicago. The proximity of this place to Fort Wayne makes it highly probable that it will be an object of attack early this season and renders prudent every precaution which can be taken to strengthen and secure it. Should the savages with the aid of a few pieces of artillery once succeed in taking one of our forts, particularly as important an one as that of Fort Wayne it will add much to their Spirit, for enterprise and plunder, and give them a confidence in their own strength which as yet they do not possess when brought in contact with the more common fortifications. It would also have a very alarming effect I fear upon our frontiers.

Within a few weeks past several volunteer troops of six months cavalry have been raised and have reported themselves to me and make applications for commissions and as yet I have not acted on them, not knowing that you would want them. You will be pleased to notify me of your wishes on this subject and if it is desirable I will proceed to organize and commission as many as may offer, or as you may suppose you may stand in need of.

I have with considerable concern learned that the Militia who served under you, have not received their pay. I do not know where the fault lies, nor that it will be in your power to remedy it, should it be, I know you will interpose with cheerfulness. I understood that Mr. [Jesse] Hunt of Cincinati was by stipulation to have come to this state, and paid over the money to the Regimental paymasters but has failed

to do so. I am also informed that the three Regiments of Detached Militia who served under Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins are in a similar situation. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 11th 16th 18th and 24th covering your extensive correspondance with the Secretary at War. I am highly pleased with the views you have taken of our situation, their general scope and tenor meet my entire approbation.

Accept my Dear Sir the Consideration of my high esteem and regard and remain Yr. Mo. Ob. Servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

General WILLIAM H. HARRISON
Commanding the Northwestern Army

EDWARDS TO SHELBY

KASKASKIA, (I. T.) March 22, 1813
Niles' Register IV, 148

A few days ago I transmitted to you important information relative to the British and Indians in the upper parts of this territory. An express yesterday brought me information that eighteen pieces of cannon and a British officer had arrived at Prairie de Chien. The ice is now completely out of our rivers. Some spies that I sent up the Illinois river are returned, reporting that they saw too much Indian signs to proceed as high up as they were directed. The express states that an Indian was discovered a day or two past very near to Fort Russell—he evidently was a spy.

I have melancholy presages of what is to happen in the country, particularly at Prairie de Chien, or rather at the mouth of the Ouisconsing. Should the British take possession of that place, I need not point out to you the difficulty of retaking it, or the importance of it to them. By water we should have to ascend 700 miles, by land not less than 400. Seven thousand Indians may easily be assembled at that place. Last year, in time of peace, there were 3377 there in the months of April and May. The following facts, which you need not doubt, will shew its importance: goods can be carried there from Montreal by the way of the Utawas river, more expeditiously, with less expense and more safety, than by way of the lakes. It is a fact that a canoe from Montreal by this route, arrived

with dispatches to a gentleman in Cahokia in 33 days. On his return he went in the same canoe to Makanac, by the Illinois river and could thence have descended to Montreal in nine days. The traders of Montreal have passed from lake Superior to the Mississippi, thence into the North West, and have been brought into collision with the Hudson Bay Company. The British can easily push a trade up the Columbia river. And combining all these facts, a person tolerably acquainted with geography of the country, the nature of the fur-trade, the inducements with the North-west Company to retain it, and the evident policy of the British in supporting it, can have no doubt of their inducements to occupy the mouth of the Ouisconsing.

These anticipations make me feel for my country's honor: certainly it must be destructive of its reputation to permit such plans to be realized. The point I have mentioned, once fortified, will be more difficult to take than Malden. I am well apprized of all the objections that may be made to these speculations, on the score of provisions; but those who make them cannot know much of the supplies that can be furnished by the settlements of Green bay (where there is an elegant merchant mill, fine farms, &c.) and Prairie de Chien itself.

I never could see the advantage of so great a struggle for Malden. Montreal once taken, it would fall of itself; and one single expedition would drive to the Mississippi country all the Indians that ever had intercourse with that place. It would not cut off the intercourse as has been supposed.

Notwithstanding I have regularly communicated information which must have shewn what our situation would be at this time, and notwithstanding our present difficulties, I am now as I was last year, totally without any instructions, acting upon my own responsibility. I have had great success in raising volunteers from the local militia; and neither they nor myself have been idle. I again set out tomorrow for the frontiers.

[NINIAN EDWARDS]

FLOYD TO GIBSON

CHARLES TOWN, March 24, 1813

Har. Pa. 274-276

DEAR SIR:

On the night of the twenty first about one o'clock at night

I had information that the Indians had attacked a house about 7 miles from this place and had killed and wounded several of the family I arose tho in very ill health and at sun up was at the place with about twenty men. We found the owner of the house a Mr Huffman killed, his wife badly wounded and one of his daughters slightly wounded and a little boy his grandson, missing, the Indians had also killed two horses and stripped the saddle, and bridles off them and taken them off after a little examination we found a trace made by horses and pursued it after a very forced march of about 20 miles came up with the Indians four in number. they had been detained crossing Mushkaqueteek which was very high and when we came in sight I believe that they were just getting out of the river on the opposite shore. I put spurs to my hors and before they had time to mount was on the oposite bank say thirty or forty yards apart one of the Indians who was either more unwilling or more unable to leave the horses than the rest was in the act of picking up his little cloathing and before I was prepared to fire he had retreated say twenty steps he again halted and stooped down appearing to be trying to get on a mokison and while in that attitude I took deliberate aim at his body perfectly fair as soon as my gun fired he sprung to his feet and turned and walked off from all appearance unable to run and where he had halted left one leggin his knapsack with all his little trinkets, I immediately ordered such of the men as were riding the stoutest horses to plunge in and swim across but in doing so out of five who made the attempt (myself amongst the number) only two guns were dry and two of that number were like to be drowned upon attempting to pursue I found that they had scattered and made to poor dry ridges where they could not be tracked. The bottom of the crick was all covered with water and we could find no blood. After I shot I believe there were nine or ten others fired at the same fellows back and him walking off before he got out of our gunshot. We brought in the horses and all the little plunder which they had.

In great haste I am Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

DAVIS FLOYD

Shelby to Harrison

March 27th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 70

Dr. Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt last evening of your favor of the 23rd inst., together with a copy of the letter of the Secretary of War of the 5th inst., to you and copy of your answer thereto also duplicate of your letter to me of the 12th inst., On the 20th inst., I had the honour of answering your letter of the 12th and of giving you some of my views of the ensuing campaign. On the same day I addressed a letter to the Secretary at War on that subject I inclose a copy of it for your information.

In these letters you will see that I have expressed in strong language my opinions of the importance of urging a much stronger force for the invasion of upper Canada than is contemplated by the Secretary at War. I see no cause to change my opinions on this subject. It is to be hoped that our orders which will arrive near about the same time, strongly urgin the same measure and written without any interchange of ideas between us, may induce our venerable president to think differently on the subject should it not I have serious doubt of the issue of the campaign.

It is extremely gratifying to me to learn that there is a prospect of our obtaining the command of Lake Erie and the waters above, the importance of this measure is incalcuable. I only wonder that it was not sooner duly appreciated—with the perfect command of the lakes and sufficency of watercraft It does not seem to me very important where is the point of embarkation that it must be in part from the rapids I have no doubt because the military stores &c., are already too far in advance to be taken to another Point. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Canada side of lake Erie to say whether it will be best to commence the attack below Malden in preference to going round the head of the Lake. I am thoroughly convinced of the absolute necessity of a considerable force of Cavalry or mounted Infantry in the advance without it you will be perpetually harrassed by small parties of Indians who will defy the pursuit of footmen—as they retreat singly that is each warrior at his own will and on his own force—and

can only be pursued by a regular force or the pursuit will always be in danger of being cut off. If this body of horse cannot with perfect safety be taken across the Lake the embarkation at Cleveland should in my opinion be given up.

One advantage resulting from the plan of the Secretary at War will be that our preparations will be much better masked and there will be a strong probability that you would so far take them by surprise as to avoid the meeting of a very strong force before you reach Malden, you would also in all probability stand a better chance to have an equal selection of the ground for a general action, should one be offered you, than if you were to go round the Lake—Should you on the other hand go round the head of the Lake & have a General action with the British and Indians and gain a decided victory, it will in my opinion if well followed up decide the Indian War and the fate of upper Canada, particularly if in the meantime the forces on the Niagra should make good their attack upon Fort George and the adjoining country—

As much as I deprecate the mode of warfare pursued by the savages, I deem it indispensible that you should employ as many of those that remain friendly to us as you can, nothing but a clean ignorance of the true Indian character could induce a belief that they can be kept neutral, and if they could some will always be found among them who would carry news to our enemies, employ them and let them commit themselves by acts of hostility and they will in their own defense be faithful to us,

After the cold blooded masacre at Raison in violation of the solemn stipulation of a capitulation, to refrain from employing them against the enemy out of refined ideas of humanity would be folly in the extreme. Our enemy can never be taught the rules of civilized warfare but by retaliation.

I feel also well satisfied that through the number you will be able to engage they will be amongst the most valuable of your troops, and I am much mistaken if they will not be found as cheap as any other forces employed—But were that not the case we must meet the enemy in his own mode of warfare if he is bountiful to the Indians on his side we must not be nigardly to those on ours, It is certainly more economical to pay say 500 warriors two prices than to have to pay the additional troops which would be required were they to go over to the enemy.

A considerable number of Cavalry and mounted Infantry can no doubt be raised and organized here in a Short time, it will take a longer period to organize ordinary Infantry—and there can be no doubt but you will stand in need of them I know not what steps may be taking to raise the two Ohio Regiments spoken of by the Secretary at War in his letter to you as to the regiment to be raised in this State I am not yet informed that the appointments of any of the Officers have been made I am positive you need not calculate anything on it for certain by the middle of May, men cannot be so easily inlisted as to fill the ranks in less time than it took Congress to pass the bill.

If you should be authorized to make a further call on the Executive of this State, I shall hold myself in readiness to raise and organize with the least possible delay the forces that may be required should it afford me an opportunity of seeing you personally, I shall my dear sir feel myself highly gratified.

I received on last evening by Express a letter from Col [William] Russell of the 7th U. S. Regt. requesting my co-operation in a contemplated expedition against the Indians on the Wabash—as I forward by this mail a letter from Col. Russell to you brought by the express it will no doubt give you his views, a copy of my answer to him, I have the honour to enclose for your information.

ISAAC SHELBY

To General WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Headquarters CINCINNATI 27th March 1813

Har. Pa. 960-969

(No. 47)

SIR:

I had the honor to receive your favor of the 7th Inst. [see above] on Tuesday last, and should have answered it by the return of the mail but was misinformed as to the time of its departure.

Those of the 15th and 17th [see above] arrived last evening. Had your letter of the 5th been received before the measures for bringing out the Militia which I had requested from the State of Kentucky had progressed so far that the day of General Rendezvous had been appointed and the men left their

Homes, I should have requested Govr. Shelby to countermand the order for calling them out altho I am well convined that if they are delayed four weeks we shall scarcely have a post remaining upon this frontier. The Militia which have been embodied from this state upon my last requisition are not sufficient to garrison the small posts.

One of the Divisions furnished Forty instead of Two hundred and fifty men.

In your letter of the 5th Inst. I am authorized to maintain or abandon the post at the Rapids of Miami as the one or the other may appear most proper under the circumstances which you mention.

It could not be abandoned without sacrificing the Artillery and valuable stores which are there, and which no Human Means that I know of could bring off through the Swamps that soround that place at this Season, to attempt to bring them up the Miami and Auglaize Rivers would from the length of time that it would take, expose the Detachment escorting them to inevitable destruction. I had therefore no alternative but to maintain the post. It is safe from the attempts of the enemy untill Lake Erie is navigable and as long as the Virginia and Pennsylvania Brigades of Militia remain there. On the 2d proximo, however the last of these Troops will be discharged. If it is not then strongly reinforced it will be in considerable danger. A smaller work would have been more defensable.

But I must confess that the Idea never occurred to me that the Government would be unwilling to keep in the field at least the semblance of an army of Militia until the regular Troops could be raised. A regular strong work calculated for Three or four hundred men could have been erected but with that force only at the Rapids there could be no possible impediment to the enemy in taking all the small Forts in the rear, excepting McArthurs Findleys and Upper Sandusky which are sorounded by a swamp. There are Three hundred Indian Warriors in the neighbourhood of Upper Sandusky (Wyandots and a mixture of Delawares and Munsees). Their friendship towards us is by no means unequivocal. An army of ours in their front will ensure their neutrality, but that army dismissed and a British and Indian force appearing amongst them nine tenths of these warriors would inevitably join them.

The posts of Upper and Lower Sandusky would fall and the whole frontier as far as Delaware at least, would be swept of its inhabitants. Further west in the immediate vicinity of Fort McArthur where we have a large deposit of stores there are one or two hundred Shawanoes and a mixture of Iroquois.

Their friendship for us is more to be depended on. But should the enemy appear in force a great part of the young men would certainly join them. Fort McArthur has not a man to defend it. Gov. Meigs sent there two companies called out for thirty days and they abandoned it at the expiration of that time. Still further west upon the Head of the Auglaize River is the large Shawanoe village of Wapochkonneta the chiefs of which, are altogether in our interest and may be relied upon. But the warriors like all others of their description might be easily seduced. Near to the village of Piqua the Delawares to the amount of nine hundred souls and upwards of two hundred warriors are encamped. Their chiefs are men of principle, but the greater part of their warriors are attached to the enemy and would join them whenever an opportunity offered. The disaffected can at any time they please communicate with the Hostile Indians. The posts of Wapockkanata Lorimers—St. Marys—Amanda—Jennings—Brown and Winchester (consisting of Block Houses, connected by pickets and having the immense supplies of provisions contained in the enclosed schedule) are immediately in the front of these people. Untill the arrival of the newly drafted Militia from this state the force for the defence of all these posts consisted of eighteen invalid regulars and a weak and worthless company of dismounted Rangers. As soon as Lake Erie is navigable the enemy could in six hours reach the post of the Miami Rapids or Sandusky bay with all their disposable force, and with any quantity of Artillery which they choose to bring. Admitting that the post at the Rapids could not have been taken (but what work with no greater natural advantages than that possesses could long resist a superior force, with the immense train of battering Artillery which the enemy could with such facility bring to bear upon it) without an army there capable of opposing the enemy in the field, nothing could prevent them from taking all our posts in the rear and I have before stated that they would find friends there willing to assist them in all their enterprises. It may be objected that

the retaining the post at the Rapids was injudicious. I answer that at the time it was occupied I had the strongest hopes of being enabled to advance against Malden and having gotten on there the artillery and stores when the ground was frozen they could not have been taken back, But there were many, very many, other considerations which determined me to retain that position. It is only necessary for me to mention one of them. The greater part of the supplies for the operation of the ensuing season were placed upon the Auglaize and St. Marys. Those rivers are navigable in the spring only. At that season they could be transported in boats to the Rapids for one-twentieth part of the expense which it would cost to take them by Land. Should the Rapids be abandoned they could not be reoccupied until the season for navigating the small rivers would have passed. With this view of the subject I could not hesitate (as I conceived that I possessed the Presidents authority for doing it) to call for a sufficient number of Militia to ensure an effective force at the Rapids of from fifteen hundred to two thousand and I regret that I have not the power of calling for as many more men effectually to cover Fort Wayne and the other posts in that direction. For the former I entertain great apprehensions. In a letter addressed to Colo. Monroe in January last, I explained the facility, with which an attack upon that place may be made from Chicago. I did not believe however that there would be much danger, until Lake Michigan was navigable but if the information [Mar. 22 above] received by Govr. Shelby from Govr. Edwards is correct, it may be invested much earlier. I have with the army two Capts. of Engineers (one of them Capt. [Charles] Gratiott) has been ill for many weeks, Captain [Eleazer Derby] Wood was sent to improve the work at Lower Sandusky. I shall order him immediately to Fort Wayne for the same purpose. The latter was once a strong regular work a fatal and false econimy caused it to be destroyed and a small picketted work substituted.

The order to the Q. Masters and Commissarys for the settling their accounts has been given; the measure is no doubt a proper one altho the high character of the principals of those Departments is a warrant for the correctness of their conduct.

The pack Horses which were unfit for service have been sold. The rest together with those purchased for the Artillery

have been placed in situations where they can be cheaply fed to recruit. This direction was given before I received your letter informing me that means were taken to obtain the naval superiority upon Lake Erie. As I am still apprehensive that we may fail in that desirable object, the Horses will be kept as they are until your further order is received.

The construction which is put upon the last law raising the pay of the Troops excludes the volunteers which were in service before the 31st of December last from its benefits. Nothing could be more galling to the feelings of this small but patriotic and gallant band than such a distinction. A company or troop of this description are in the same camp with one of Regulars and one of Militia. The former enlisted at the same time with the volunteers and perform duty in common with them, yet the services of the regulars are considered as worth three dollars per month more than the volunteers, a comparison with the situation of the Militia is still more odious to the volunteers. The former have been forced into service for six months, the latter have entered voluntarily for twelve—under these circumstances the volunteers will continue to do their duty but I greatly fear that the zeal and ardour for which they were remarkable will be found to have greatly abated if not entirely fled.

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Hb. Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Hon'ble JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters CINCINNATI 28th March 1813

Har. Pa. 977-982

Private.

Sir:

I have thought it my duty to enclose you a Letter just received from Govr. Shelby. [see March 27, above] I am well convinced that the sentiments it contains are common to the whole western country, and that they will not only affect calls for militia, which the Governor may make both as to the numbers and quality of the men, but will have great and unfriendly influence upon the recruiting of the 12 months Regulars. In the belief that the government is about to employ a smaller

force against Canada than that of the enemy would justify in raising the contemplated Regiments we shall have not only to contend with the clamor of the usual opposers of the administration, but the tenderness of parents and even a false patriotism itself will be strenuously exerted, to prevent the youth of the country from going into what is termed certain destruction. It i impossible that the impolicy of relying upon Militia, for the prosecution of the war, can be more strongly impressed upon the mind of any person than it is upon mine. If I had had two thousand regular troops, after the defeat of Genl. Winchester instead of four thousand Militia we should at this moment have been in possession of Malden and the fleet of the enemy. But Militia can only be employed with effect, to accomplish a single distinct object, which will require little time and not much delay, on the way. We last year committed errors, which has cost the nation enormous sums. Thousands of men were hurried to the field before it was recollected that they would require subsistence, ammunition and artillery. We have now everything of this kind in abundance.

The object is distinctly before us there is no necessity for those delays which evaporate the spirit of men, who cannot remain long from their families and which causes such heavy drafts upon the public funds.

We can fix the day when our operations shall commence. Not a moment need be lost. Not a day paid for but what is employed in actual service. I have often stated to the Government that in the invasion of Upper Canada the *actual* force of the enemy will be in an inverted ratio to ours: if we are weak they will be strong, if we are strong their actual strength will diminish, in proportion to the opinion which the Indians may have of the dificulty of resisting us. The present appearances upon our frontier are well calculated to inspire confidence in the hostile Indians. It is decidedly my opinion that the employment of a large force would not only be most certain, but in the end most econnomical. I do not think that the Regular troops contemplated to be raised in the western country can be procured. There is at any rate no other way of getting them than by suffering it to be made public that such a force will be employed as will give universal confidence. I think that authority ought to be given to employ volunteer corps of every description many of them can be procured

which would agree to serve forty or fifty days after their arrival at the Rapids who would care nothing for pay. Let a considerable army advance from the Rapids toward Malden and the Indians who may not have joined the British standard will suspend their operations against our frontiers until they see the result. The command of the Lakes will give facility to our operations, and the expense of the vessels will nearly be paid for by the saving in land transportation. I greatly however fear that the naval superiority upon the upper Lakes will not be obtained and if it is not, what will be our situation unless we are prepared to take the other course. In my official letter I have observed, that if I had the power I would can out the ballance of the Three thousand men which have been organized in Kentucky for the protection of Fort Wayne etc. I will only add that if any disaster happens to any of the posts for the want of troops to protect them, the popularity of the administration in the western country will receive a shock [from] which it will never recover.

Nothing is so painful as to be obliged to denounce an Individual and yet I should not do my duty If I were not to recommend that the accounts of Mr. [Joseph] Wheaton an Asst. Dp. Q. Mr. be most critically examined. He expended thirteen or fourteen thousand dollars in bringing on the part of the artillery and stores from Pittsburgh to U. Sandusky and I cannot conceive how it could cost half the sum

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Hb. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honbl. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War*

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES Marh 31st, 1813

Har. Pa. 271-273

SIR:

Since I last had the honor of addressing you upon the subject of the removal of Fort Knox, I have had the disagreeable mortification of suffering the grossest insult I ever experienced in my life. Understanding that the greater part of the timber necessary for the erection of the Fort, was brought down here, and receiving an intemation that Lieut. Tho. H. Richardson of the U. S. Troops, intended to assume to himself the author-

ity of fixing upon the scite, I informed him by a note in writing that so soon as I was notified by him that the necessary timber was brought to Vincennes I would then fix upon and inform him of the site inclosing him at the same time a Copy of the Honrable the late Secretary of War's letter to me authorizing the removal of Fort Knox to or near this place. But notwithstanding this condescention on my part this young Gentlemen has taken upon himself not only without my consent but contrary to my opinion to commence the building of the Fort and that too in the most disadvantageous and useless place in or adjacent to the whole town.

I presume Sir, that this young man would not have assumed the authority and evinced the barefaced affontery of the erection of the Fort without having previously consulted me had it not been owing to the malicious council of Capt. [Ambrose] Whitlock and a Mr. Butler. I disdain complaining in the general but when a circumstance so malicious and disrespectful as the above and which I am convinced is intended not only as an insult upon myself but the Government I think myself measurable bound to communicate it to you. Whilst upon this subject Sir, permit me to relate another part of Lieut Richardson conduct, one which proves a great degree of weakness or venality. Last fall when Fort Harrison was beseiged by the Indians and Col. [William] Russell had hastily marched for its relief It became necessary to forward provisions not only for the Col.'s forces but also for the Garrison and the Contractor was dispatching a number of waggons under an Escort of one hundred and thirty odd men furnished by me. In a conversation with Mr. Richardson upon the subject of forwarding supplies to fort Harrison I informed him of this circumstance and advised him to take advantage of this opportunity if he had any stores to forward—he promised me he would but suffered the opportunity to slip by and a few days afterwards came to me and informed me that he intended to send off a Mr. Black and his Waggon under and Escort of a Sargeant and twelve men. I disuaded him from the measure observing to him that times were extremely dangerous, the guard very small and that in my opinion they stood a great chance of being cut off. The result proved the correctness of my advice. The Escort were completely defeated with the loss of seven killed and one or two wounded the waggon cut

to pieces and all the public property destroyed by the Indians. Mr. Black (a private citizen of this Territory) yet lying out of deserved remuneration for his losses and services and drove to a suit against this Lieut Richardson which is now depending in our General court. Upon the arrival of Col. Russell here (a few days since) I informed him of the Conduct of Lieut Richardson and Mr. Butler to which the Col. replied he would arrest them provided I would prefer charges against them, to this I answered that I would not, but that I would refer the matter to you. The Indians are extremely troublesome to the citizens upon our frontier. One man has been recently killed and others wounded near Vellonea. another (a W. Huffman) killed a part of his family wounded an a part supposed to be taken prisoners within seven miles of Charles Town. A succinct [account] of which you will find in the inclosed letter [see Mar. 24 above] to which I beg leave to refer you. A barge loaded with supplies for Fort Harrison was the other day attacked by a pretty considerable party of Indians within six miles of the Fort (in ascending) and defeated. One of the hands killed and a number wounded. The boat and ballance of the crew have returned to this place. Today two other boats have been dispatched by Col. Rusell for Fort Harrison under a strong Escort and tomorrow he sends off a party of one hundred and odd Rangers by land for the same place. A part of those rangers are those who have lately tendered me their services of which there is one company from this county (Knox) and one other from Jefferson. By an Act of the last Session of the Legislature of this Territory the Seat of Government is to be removed to Corydon. The Governor and Secretary are by the same law permitted to reside wherever they please in the Territory. I shall reside in Jeffersonville where I shall of course keep my office.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your devoted Humble Servant

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Sect. of War* JOHN GIBSON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS CINCINNATI 30 March 1813

SIR: *Har. Pa. 983, 984*

I have just received letters from the Miami Rapids informing me of the determination of the Virginia and Pennsylvania

Militia that are now there, to leave that place the very moment that their time of service expires even if the troops destined to relieve them should not have arrived. The disagreeable circumstances of one of our men having been taken by the enemy will apprize them of the situation of the post and will I fear induce them to undertake some enterprise against it before it can be reinforced. I have determined therefore to set out early tomorrow for Camp Meigs by the way of St. Marys Colo. [John] Miller with about 120 Regulars and 80 militia of the state will I hope be ready to descend the Auglaize the day after tomorrow in boats and will arrive at the Rapids in three days—there are also about 180 of the Ohio militia building boats at Fort Findlay about 44 miles from the Rapids and 150 of these have been ordered to proceed thither immediately.

A company of the Kentucky Militia reached Newport yesterday and others will arrive in a day or two. Having a number of Pack Horses in the neighbourhood I have determined to employ them to expedite the March of a few of those companies by assigning one of them to every two men.

My uneasiness at the situation of Camp Meigs is greatly increased from the state of the weather for some time past which will render Lake Erie navigable much earlier than usual. The Indians have commenced their depredations nearly all round the frontiers. The people are much alarmed. I must take the liberty again of stating my belief that it will be necessary to call out the remaining part of the Militia that have been organized for service in Kentucky and that they be marched in the direction of Fort Wayne advanced of St. Marys where they can be supported easily and when they will overawe the Indian tribes in that quarter and protect our deposits of provisions, as well as cover the Frontiers.

I am with great Respect Sir Yr. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. The Secretary of War

TIPTON TO GIBSON

April, [1?] 1813

Cockrum, *Pioneer History Indiana, 372*

Since I have had command of the militia on the borders of Harrison and Clark counties, the Indians have caused us much

trouble and murdered a number of citizens on the frontiers of these counties, all of which I have reported to Colonel [Robert] Evans; but in order that you may understand the situation, I have directed this letter to you.

On the 18th of March one man was killed and three others wounded near this place (Valonia). [see March 24 above] At that time I was not there. On my arrival I took twenty-nine men and went up to Drift river, twenty-five miles, and here found a party of Indians on an island in the river. In a skirmish of twenty minutes, I defeated them, killed one and saw others sink in the river, and I believe if any made their escape by swimming, they lost their guns. I lost no men. [See Apr 12, 1814 below]

On the sixteenth inst. two men were killed and one wounded southwest eight miles of this place and a number of horses were stolen. I immediately took thirty men and followed them three days. We had five large creeks to raft and many to wade and every day rain fell. The third day I directed my spies to march slowly. The Indians' horses were showing evidences of fatigue, and I thought it best not to overtake them until night; but contrary to my orders, they came up with one Indian who had stopped to fix his pack and fired at him. The other Indians were but a little in advance and they all left their horses and plunder. The ground being hilly, we could not overtake them. Had it not been for my orders being disobeyed, I would have been able to have killed or captured them in their camp that night. As they went out they passed Salt creek and there took an old trail directly for Delaware town, and it is my opinion that while the government was supporting one part of that tribe, the others were murdering our citizens. It is much to be desired that these rascals, of whatever tribe they may be harbouring about their town, should be routed. This could be done with one hundred mounted men in seven days.

If there is not an effective measure taken to guard this place, all of Clark and Harrison Counties will break. It is rumored here that when the rangers come out, the militia will be dismissed. If so, our case is a dangerous one, as it is hard for mounted men to range through the swamps and backwaters of Driftwood and Muscackituck rivers, as they have been for most of the season more than a mile wide, by reason

of low, marshy bottoms which overflow, and many times three and four miles wide. The Indians come in and secrete themselves in some high ground surrounded by water and by the help of bark canoes, come in and do mischief and until I came out, never could be found. Since I came they have made two attempts to take off the horses. The first time, on the 12th inst., I took all their horses but one. The last time I took all and still followed them with footmen. The last time we lived three days on a little venison, without bread or salt, and I believe if there are to be rangers, there should be spies of young and hardey footmen, who can lay and scout through the swamps and thickets as the Indians do; then we will be secure, not else. I have been constantly out for the last eight days on foot, wading and rafting the creeks. I have seen many signs of Indians, such as camps where they have lain, and killed hogs and cattle to live on, and many canoes to approach our settlements, and I am conscious if you had not ordered out the additional company and made those excellent arrangements of the ninth of February, [see Feb 9 and 17 above] all of this frontier would have been murdered ere now. The citizens are living between hope and despair, wating to know their doom.

[JOHN TIPTON]

RECRUITING IN KENTUCKY

GEORGETOWN (KY.) April 1. 1813

Niles' Register IV, 116

MOUNTED REGIMENT: The most flattering accounts are received from various quarters that the mounted regiment (to be commanded by R. M. Johnson) is rapidly filling its ranks. This suits Kentuckians. In the old war, they were all carried to the enemy on horseback. They are prejudiced in favor of a corps of this description. All seem to be aroused—men above 45, and boys under 18 years of age, are volunteering, anxious for an opportunity to avenge the blood of their slaughtered friends.

Capt. [William] Dudley,[1] of Frankfort, passed through this place, on Tuesday night, with 122 as respectable, as brave and as fine volunteers, as any country ever produced, destined for

1. William Dudley was a native of Spottsylvania Co., Va., but was then living in Fayette Co., Ky. He was killed at Fort Meigs.

the Rapids. We will venture to assert, that captain Dudley and his patriot band will give a good account of themselves when attacked by the enemy, they will leave their mark.

LEXINGTON, March 30. Yesterday Col. Dudley's regiment of Kentucky volunteers was paraded in this town, and are expected to march in a few days on Newport.

The men appear to be cheerful and animated and inspired with the purest feelings of patriotism. With pride we mention that several who served on the last campaign have again volunteered their services.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 3rd, 1813

Har. Pa. 64-66

SIR:

Your dispatch of the 17th ultimo [see Mar. 17 above] from Chilicothe has been received and I hasten to repeat to you the views of the President in relation to the next campaign and the injunctions growing out of these, with regard to the employment of Militia.

Our first object is to get a command of the lakes. Means to accomplish this object have been taken, and we have the fullest assurance that by the 1st day of June it will be accomplished.

This fact assured, there can be no longer a doubt by what means or by what Route, the Division of the Army assigned to you, ought to approach Malden. A passage by water will carry you directly to the Fortress you would attack without impairing your strength by fatigue, or diminishing it by battle. A passage by land will on the other hand call for great efforts and expose you to great losses, which if they do not destroy, will at least cripple you. The former will be easy, safe and economical, the latter difficult, dangerous and enormously expensive.

On the other supposition, that we fail to obtain the command of the Lake, a new question will arise—whether the campaign shall take an offensive or defensive character? Be this question determined as it may, the utmost extent which will be given to the force employed, will be seven thousand effectives.

Various reasons determine this point. The enemy have

never had in the field for the defence of Malden more than two thousand men. Their number has no doubt been hitherto limited by their means of subsistence and this cause is not likely to suffer any very material change in their favor, during the ensuing campaign. More than seven thousand men therefore would be unnecessary on our part. Again, to maintain a greater number would be impracticable, in the present state of the Treasury.

It now remains only to signify to you clearly and distinctly the kind of force the Government mean hereafter to employ in offensive operations, if it can be obtained.

When the Legislature at their last session adopted the measure of augmenting the Army to fifty-two Regiments of the Line, it was expressly in the view of superseding hereafter the necessity of employing militia, excepting in moments of actual invasion. In obedience to this policy the President assigned to the 8th military District of the United States, four of these new Regiments, which if filled, and super-added to the two Regiments of the line now in that District, and the 24th in march for it, will give a total of seven regiments or seven thousand men. This number forbids the belief, that any employment of Militia drafts will be necessary, when it shall have been collected. Till however this be done, or at least till time be given for the experiment, so many militia only are to be called out as shall be necessary for the *defense* of your posts on the Miami and of your depots of provision on the Lake. and should the recruiting service go on less fortunately in the patriotic states of Kentucky and Ohio than in other parts of the Union, you are in that case, and in that case only, authorized to call out as *many militia drafts, as will make good the deficiency*—and organizing these under the rules already prescribed, await the farther orders of the President in your camp at the Rapids.

To these orders I have to add that you will regard it as your duty to keep this Department regularly and frequently informed of the actual condition of the Troops under your command as well in regard to equipment and supplies of provision and ammunition as to numbers, discipline and health and that your weekly and monthly reports shall include also the state of the Ordnance and Quarter Master's Departments, noting particularly the number of Horses and oxen employed

by both. You will readily perceive the necessity for giving this order, when I state that no return of any description from your Division of the Army has ever been received at the Adjutant General's Office. Your proportion of the new staff has been given to you. Captain [Nathaniel F.] Adams has been appointed Assist. Adjutant General, and Mr. [John C.] Bartlett Deputy Qr. Master General of your division. The Brigadier Generals [Duncan] McArthur and [Lewis] Cass are employed in superintending the Recruiting Service. A letter from the latter gives reason to believe that this will go on well in the State of Ohio.

Major General HARRISON

SHELBY TO HARRISON

Apl. 4th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 75

DR SIR:

I received two letters [see Mar. 22 above] yesterday from Governor Edwards of Illinois, the information they contained being of the most serious and alarming nature. I do myself the honour to enclose herewith copies of them, to apprise you of the strides which are making by the British evidently with a view to future conquest.

You are no doubt well aware of the importance which the Post at Prairie Duchim will give to their arms as it respects the numerous tribes of savages to the west of the Mississippi who heretofore have felt but little inducements to enter into the war on either side.

It is a misfortune that the representation of Gov. Edwards made last year have not been duly appreciated, It will now require ten times the force that might have established a post by our Government at Prairie Duchin & thereby have broken that chain of water communication from the Lakes to the western ocean, which I fear we shall not be able to wrest from the enemy, and they know too well the great value of the Territory to the north of it to surrender it to us on a General Peace without a concession on our part of more value to them.

I saw one of the Regiments of the Lake brigade which marched from this State to join you—except two companies, great part of them too men under size and in other respects hardly Kentuckians. You must have a different kind of troops

to meet the enemy on the field, but while an opinion is entertained in Kentucky that the Government is going on in too small a scale to meet the enemy, the better kind of people who are able to send a substitute will not go themselves to fight a battle which promises nothing but defeat and disgrace, and unless you shall have a discretion to call out a force which you may deem sufficient and of every description of Troops sufficient by their numbers to insure success, you need hardly expect a man from Kentucky upon any future draft who is able to send a substitute in his room and of all others an army of raw substitutes are least proper to meet an enemy of well disciplined troops flanked by strong bodies of Indians. The defeat of St. Clair and many others I Could mention will justify this opinion. I wish my voice could reach the ear of our good President and induce him to call General Wilkinson to the command of our North Eastern Army, his talents and experience would open a seam both in the field and in the war department of a different aspect from what has yet been conceived by any one before him.

With, &c.,

ISSAC SHELBY

To General WM. H. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 8th 1813

Har. Pa. 60

SIR:

I have received the two letters you did me the honor to write to me on the 27th and 28th ult. [see above] In a former letter you had stated that a number of Boats were building under your direction. I send you the inclosed extract from a letter written by Major [Thomas Sidney] Jessup of the 19th Regt. now at Cleveland. If the number he has contracted for be more than will be wanted, (calculating those you are building at other points) you will be pleased to give him that information, in time to enable him to lessen the number.

Some portion of your last requisition upon the Ohio militia, ought to be placed at those points on the Southern shore of the Lake, which will be most likely to invite the attacks of the Enemy.

Major General WM. H. HARRISON.

HARRISON TO GOV. SHELBY

Head Quarters FORT AMANDA on the AUGLAISE River
9th April 4 o'clock A. M. [1813]

(Duplicate)

Har. Pa. 993-995

DEAR SIR:

Altho I have reason to believe that the power formerly given to me to call upon the Executive of the adjacent states and Territories for Detachments of Militia is considered by the Secretary of War as being annuled yet such is my view of the critical situation of our affairs in the country that I am induced to request your Excellency to take such measures as you may judge most effectual and speedy to send me a reinforcement of at least fifteen hundred men. The season is scarcely sufficiently advanced to afford wild food for horses but as we have a considerable quantity of forage at some of the advanced posts I must request you to dispatch immediately the Regt. of Mounted Riflemen commanded by the Honble. R. M. Johnson or such part of it as may be raised without waiting for the infantry. Should the Government not think proper to authorize the employment of the latter you will receive notice of it before they can have arrived at the General Rendezvous as I have already written on the subject and I am persuaded that neither your Excellency nor the officers and men who may be called out will regret the trouble you will have on this occasion should it even prove ultimately to produce no advantage.

From the information received yesterday it is very evident that the enemy intended to attack the post at the Miami Rapids They have been apprised of the reduced state of the troops there and calculate upon an easy conquest. I have been obliged to dispatch for its protection the Squadron of Dragoons and have now with me about 300 men which is all that I could possibly take from the protection of the posts on this line. Indeed one of them is left to the protection of the Friendly Indians with only a sergeant and 3 men of ours. I shall embark in one hour in a boat and perogues and calculate on reaching the Rapids tomorrow night. I am informed by Major [Amos] Stoddard who commands at Camp Meigs that the Indians are in force on the Rivers between Fort Winchester and the former.

Without a very considerable addition to my present force it will be impossible to defend the extensive line of weak posts on the frontier and maintain that at the Rapids. The enemy have a single point only to defend, their forces are concentrated, they command the lake & can take their troops to any point they think proper to attack with a great facility. Our movements on the contrary are necessarily laborious and tardy & not knowing on which of our numerous and vulnerable points the storm is to fall it is necessary upon every military principle that our force should be treble theirs; at present it is inferior.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir Yr. Obt. & Hbl. Servt.

(Signed) W. H. HARRISON

His Excellency ISAAC SHELBY, Esqr. *Governor of Kentucky*

True Copy L. HUKILLS, *A. D. Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 49.)

Head Quarters N. W. Army CAMP MEIGS (Miami Rapids)
[About April 15, 1813]

Har. Pa. 985-988

SIR:

I arrived here on the morning of the 12th Inst. [April] having decended the Auglaize and Miami Rivers with all the Troops that I darst take from the Forts in that direction. Major [Amos] Stoddard who commanded here for some days previously to my arrival informed me that he had communicated to the Adt. General some recent information he had received respecting the designs of the enemy upon this post. I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the accounts he had received, indeed they are corroborated by a number of circumstances.

I found on my arrival here that Genl. Leftwitch had done little or nothing towards completing the defences of the post. Major Stoddard had however employed himself very actively after the command had devolved upon him and since my arrival the whole of the troops have been engaged in finishing the old works and erecting new ones. Amongst the latter are an earthern Parapet (nearly completed) round the whole

Camp and several new Sod Batteries in addition to those which were laid down in the plan which I had the honor to forward. A Grand Traverse across the whole Camp and a few additional counter Guards will render all the efforts of the enemy unavailing. I pledge myself to defend it to the last extremity. Today or tomorrow I shall be reinforced by a part of the Kentucky Troops. The whole must be considerably advanced and will shortly join me. As the enemy are known to have several parties of Indians out for the purpose of intercepting the mail and may very probably suceed altho it is guarded by a detachment of dragoons I shall wait for a safer opportunity which will occur in a few days to communicate some further information. When the Law for raising 12 months volunteers was in force I authorized McFarland to raise a company of Artillery having been furnished with blank commissions for that purpose. He had recruited thirty men before the law was repealed and having expended a good deal of money and manifested much zeal for the service I promised him a Captaincy in one of the new Regiments. I shall be gratified to have this promise fulfilled. I believe him to be worthy of the appointment.

I have received no letter from you later than the 17th ultimo.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Ob. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 50)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 17th April 1813

Har. Pa. 989-992

SIR:

I must beg you to believe that I would not disobey any order of yours unless I was sure that my doing so would meet your approbation when you should be informed of all the circumstances that produced such disobedience. Nothing can be more proper than the regulations contained in your letter of the—[13?] ulto. on the subject of calling out the Militia and Yet such was my view of the critical situation of our affairs in this quarter that I have been obliged to accept of companies from the State of Ohio that do not contain more than forty men. Indeed there is scarcely one with more than half the comple-

ment. As soon however as I can get them together and consult Govr. Meigs they shall be consolidated. I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to Gov. Shelby of the 9th Inst. [see above] Having written to you before on the subject of calling out those Troops There will be time enough to instruct the Governor should it be determined that they are not to be employed before they can be put in motion.

The enemy have not yet made their appearance but from the information received through the Wyandotts of Sandusky they are collecting a large force for the attack of this or some other of our posts.

John S. Wills Esq. Judge Advocate to the Army will set out tomorrow for Franklinton. I have mentioned some particulars to him which I did not wish to commit to paper and he will have the honor to communicate them by letter from that place or Upper Sandusky.

When I arrived here I was informed by Major [Amos] Stoddard that he had written to the Ajdt. Genl. and given him all the intelligence which he had received of the Movements and intentions of the enemy. I have since learnt however that he forgot to mention that the British had lately launched at Malden a vessel carrying Eighteen guns which was completely equipped and ready for a voyage and that another of the same size was nearly ready to be launched.

The difficulty of procuring proper persons for scouts (spies they are called in the western country) and the very exorbitant price which they demand has made it necessary to employ some of the friendly Indians for that purpose. I have now with me about Thirty and have promised them fifty cents per day. Altho there is no Law authorizing this I intended to pay them out of the fund which Government has always put at my disposal for extra presents and which yearly amounts to a much larger sum than will be given them. The Agent Mr. [John] Johnson will have directions to draw for their compensation in this way. If there were no other reasons for the employment of the friendly Indians the confidence in their fidelity which it gives to our own people upon the frontiers makes it absolutely necessary. I have been under very great apprehensions that some scoundrels in the neighborhood of Piqua would fall upon the Delawares.

A few of our people and Twenty Indians are now out in the

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direction of the River Raisin for the purpose of taking a prisoner to gain information.

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Ob. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

April 18th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 96

DR SIR:

On the 15th inst., while at my farm in Lincoln, I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 9th inst., [see above] making a requisition on me for a reinforcement of at least fifteen hundred men and desiring in particular the Regiments of mounted men commanded by R. M. Johnson, Esq.

I immediately started for this place which I reached in the course of the next day and that afternoon issued orders for the rendezvous at George Town on the 2nd day of May of the two remaining regiments of the detached militia of this State, to march from thence without delay to your Head Quarters.

These Regiments having been raised under a Law which vests me with the discretionary power of ordering them in the service whenever the exigiencies of the War might in my opinion require, I felt no difficulty in ordering them out under the critical posture of our affairs in your quarters as represented in your letter—Having a confidence however that the measure would be sanctioned by the president of the United States or if not that I should receive notice of his disapprobation in time to stop their march before they left the limits of the State—

I have received no communications from the president of the U. S. nor from the Secy. at War, relative to the authority, said to be given to Mr. Johnson to raise a Regiment of mounted Infantry, newspaper publication is all I have seen on that Subject—

I do not know what law that Regt. is said to be raised under, nor its object. And I have no reason to believe that it is organized. Indeed the State Constitution forbids the appointment of a member of Congress to any office of Trust or Profit under its authority—The Federal Constitution is equally cau-

tious as to their holding any office under the General Government.

Under existing circumstances I could therefore take no notice of the mounted Riflemen.

I flatter myself that with the forces under your command you will be able to maintain your ground against any force that the enemy can bring against you, until you are reinforced so as to enable you to commence Offensive measures.

I am Dr Sir &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY.

To General HARRISON

P. S. You have said nothing to me in your letter about an assurance of pay to the men ordered to your assistance. It will certainly be expected, and it is much to be wished that they may receive it, Should this reach you in time I hope you will give orders that at least one month's pay be advanced to them before they leave Cincinnati. I. S.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 18th 1813

Har. Pa. 67

SIR:

Enclosed is an order recalling Brig. General [Duncan] McArthur to the discharge of the duties to which he had been specially assigned by this Department.

Letters from Fort Meigs of the 9th Instant have been received from Major [Amos] Stoddard. The enemy's parties besetting the approaches to the fort have been small and might have been chastised had the Detachments sent in pursuit of them been larger. When your whole force is collected, it would be desirable that Colonel Proctor should make an attempt to dislodge or to invest you. He can neither bring into the field nor keep in it more than two thousand effectives. The regular force sent to him from the Niagara and arriving after his defeat of General Winchester, did not exceed the number he lost in that affair. His field train consists of six or eight six pounders.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 51)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 21st April 1813

Har. Pa. 998-1007

SIR:

I had the honor last evening to receive your favor of the 4th [3d] Inst. The party which was sent to the River Raisin returned with three Frenchmen from that settlement. The information given by the latter is that the enemy are still urging on their preparations for the attack of this place. The transports for the troops and Artillery were preparing. The Prophet and his Brother had arrived at the River Raisin with a reinforcement of Indian Warriors and a still larger was expected on the day after from the south side of Lake Michigan. Three Artillery officers had been sent to fix on the sites for their Batteries on the Bank of the River opposite to this place. The Prisoners captured on the 7th Inst. had been taken in and had informed the enemy of the strength of this post. But a salute which had been fired upon my arrival here was heard—the intention known and a belief entertained that I had brought a large reinforcement. The Indians began to waver. Their employers were stimulating them by every means in their power. To the Prophet and his followers assurances were given that the Michigan Territory should be theirs. The Indians objected to the plan of attack proposed by the British which was to detach the Militia and the Indians to intercept our retreat whilst the Regular Troops were employed in annoying us from the opposite side of the River. The attack on this post would now be desirable and I only fear that they may abandon the Idea for one more easily executed. My fears for the safety of Fort Wayne are removed for the present, as all the accounts agree as to the point of the exertions making by the enemy to draw to Malden every Indian from the country between the Wabash and Lake Michigan.

The plan for future operations as laid down in your letter of the 4th [3d] is no doubt the best that could have been devised in the event of the promised naval success and a prosperous issue to the Recruiting business. My measures will therefore be entirely directed to the prosecution of the campaign in that way.

There is nothing to be feared as to the ulterior operations of the campaign. But all my apprehentions are awake for the

present moment. To you Sir, it is unnecessary to say that it requires a larger force to defend a line of frontier as extensive as ours is than to carry on offensive operations against an enemy whose force is concentrated and who possesses the power of attacking any point they please. I had much rather when joined by Genl. [Green] Clay with the Kentucky troops advance upon Detroit than attempt to defend our long lines of weak posts. The Point mentioned in the address to you from certain citizens of this state is no doubt very much exposed but it is not more so than others that are more important.

I shall however attend to it as soon as possible The position which I occupy here certainly possesses more advantages than any other that could have been taken, and yet such is the adverse nature of this country, for Military operations, that had I a disposable force of some thousands, the enemy could turn my right by landing at Sandusky and operate against the Forts there with impunity. It is now raining as it has been for two days and the Swamps which run parallel to this River throughout its whole extent must in a few hours be absolutely impassable to Infantry. I shall cause the movements of the enemy to be narrowly watched. But in the event of their landing at Lower Sandusky that post cannot be saved. I will direct it in such an event to be evacuated. The stores there are not of much consequence excepting about 500 stand of arms which I will cause to be removed as soon as the roads are practicable; at present it is impossible.

Before I left Cincinnati I was informed by a Letter from Genl. Leftwitch that the Pensylvania and Virginia Militia would remain here, until other troops should arrive, upon no condition but that of receiving their arrears of pay before their departure. I accordingly dispatched my Aid de Camp Lieut. [Levi] Hukill with directions to assure them that their wishes should be complied with, and I directed Mr. [Jesse] Hunt Paymaster to send on Twenty thousand dollars to this place to be delivered to Colo. [Samuel] Huntingdon whom I was in hopes would be found here on the arrival of Mr. Hukill the greater part of the Militia were gone about two hundred Pennsylvanians however volunteered their services to remain for fifteen days and upon my arrival here they demanded a fulfillment of the promise. Col. Huntingdon was not here,

and from the circumstance of a part of the detachment being made up of small fragments of Companies, there was great difficulty in adjusting their accounts. The money was however placed in the hands of Lt. [David] Gwynne Pay Master to the 19th Regt. U. S. Infy. by whose exertions and knowledge of accounts the payment has been made in such a manner as to insure justice to the public and individuals altho it will no doubt cause a little more trouble at the Genl. Pay office. Lt. Gwynne will send to the pay Master Genl. one of the triplicate setts of Receipt Rolls which were taken, with an explanation of the whole proceedure. You will I am persuaded Sir not regret any additional trouble which this affair may cause in your Department when you reflect upon the necessity of most scrupulously fulfilling every engagement made between the agents of the Government and Militia placed in the situation that these were to whom the promise of payment was made.

I am convinced the Adjutant Genl. is mistaken in saying that no returns have been forwarded from this army. From October until January every exertion was made to get the Militia Corps of which it was composed to make regular and formal returns. They were generally received but so incorrect that nothing could be made from them.

In the last mentioned month however a General Return was completed and forwarded by Capt. [Nathaniel] Adams and since that another. Capt. Adams was left by me at Cincinnati at his request to make up his accounts as pay master to the 4th Regt. He is now ordered on and will resume his functions upon his arrival. The orders contained in your letter of the 4th shall be observed in future as far as is practicable. But You Sir who have been accustomed to see Militia officers who could at least read and write can have no Idea of the ignorance of many of those even of considerable Rank in the western country. [see Nov. 18, 1812 as a sample] A field officer of the Ohio Troops to whom I gave a day or two ago a form of his report as officer of the day acknowledged to me that he was unable to fill it up. From the Quarter Master Department more regularity and more economy may be expected. The faults in that Department have arisen from two sources viz. the creation of two independent heads and the necessity of employing a vast number of subordinate agents

whose characters could not be ascertained. From the latter cause notwithstanding the abilities of Colo. [James] Morrison, and the high integrity of both him and Captain [John H.] Piatt I do not believe that there has been more fraud and peculation practiced upon the public in this quarter since last fall than in any other army, that was ever found. With some few exceptions, it has I believe been principally confined to Pack Horse Masters and Waggon Masters.

I had one of the latter confined at Chilicothe for selling public oxen and stealing others. The officers who were to have composed the court to try him were obliged to come off to the army and the fellow has since been released by the civil authority. I gave you the name of a higher officer in a private letter who is looked upon with more than suspicion; it is believed that he has at least $10,000 of the public money in his possession. Could I have this to spend a short time in the interior where these enormities have been committed I would endeavor to bring some of these scoundrels to punishment. From the number of posts in which valuable public property is deposited there requires a very considerable number of subordinate Q Masters. All these posts (one only excepted) have militia garrisons whose commanders seldom have the firmness and inclination to control their men. It is necessary that there should be in each of them a Quarter Master or agent. Young men of character might be got for from Thirty to Forty Dolls. per month. The Quarter Masters under the old law have been necessarily continued untill they can be replaced by the new appoinments. I have heard not a word from the 24th Regiment. Pursuing the plan laid down in your letter of the 4th [3d] I can see no advantage in the point of embarkation mentioned in a former letter. The Miami Bay or Sandusky would be infinitely preferable. The other place possesses no advantage which these do not afford they are nearer our deposits and the marching of the Troops from this direction to the other place would point out the intention to the enemy. I will thank you to inform me whether any alteration will be made, in this respect as soon as convenient, as it will govern me in the orders to be given for the March of the 24th Regt. Nothing, I presume, can be expected from me as to the provision of transports. In the proposed direction, open boats will not answer.

No person is mentioned in your letter of the 4th [3d] for the Inspectors Department. I had always intended to recommend for it Lieut. [Levi] Hukill my Aid de Camp who is better qualified for it than any person I know of and I sincerely believe better than any other Plattoon officer in the army. I have the honor to enclose herewith an extract of a letter [see Mar. 27 above] from Govr. Shelby on the subject of the employment of Indian auxiliaries. His sentiments on the subject are precisely mine.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Yr. Ob. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 52)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 25th April 1813

Har. Pa. 1-3

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th Inst. [see above] The directions given by me to the Q. Mr. on the St. Marys last winter were to prepare a number of boats of that kind which were calculated, as well for coasting the lake as for descending the rivers. From the difficulty of procuring workmen five only of that description were built, perouges and flats being substituted for them. Your suggestion with regard to the disposition of the Ohio Militia shall be attended to. If the enemy do not commence offensive operations soon I shall be able to dismiss a considerable proportion of them and you may rely upon my doing it at the moment at which I think their services can be spared.

In your favor of the 4th [3d] Inst. you observe that my proportion of the staff has been assigned to me but the names of none of them are given but those of majors [Nathaniel] Adams and [John C.] Bartlett I must beg leave to observe that in my opinion this army will require a more numerous staff than any other because it will consist almost exclusively of raw troops and inexperienced officers. For this reason I have ventured to detain Major [Levi] Hukill until your further determination shall be known, my having done so will not offend General [Wade] Hampton. He is personally the friend of the Major who was some time in his family and has

written to him that it is not his wish that he should abandon any situation in this army for the one which would be offered him in his staff should he prefer the former.

The following circumstance will then shew the importance of Major Hukills services to me at present. The labour on the defences of the Camp being pretty well gotten over a General order was issued for placing the whole of the Troops off duty on Drill for several hours each day. But amongst all the officers under my command of every grade I am persuaded there is not an individual, Majors Adams and Hukill excepted (& perhaps Lt. Col. [Edmund Pendleton] Gains of the 24th whom I do not know) who are capable of properly directing a drill or manoeuvring a Battalion. I should prefer Major Hukill to any other person as the Inspector of this army.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a rough sketch representing the situation of the posts in this quarter and a more correct view of the Islands in Lake Erie than any printed map furnishes. In the group called Bass Islands there is one of the finest harbours in the world. It is the Bay formed by an indenture in Edwards Islands and nearly shut up by another Island this harbour as the Frenchman lately brought from the River Raisin informs me the British are about Fortifying. It is said to be eminently calculated for defence. The shore which commands the Harbour being high and a rock.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Yr. Ob. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

P. S. When I was appointed to the command of the N. W. Army the secretary of war informed me that the President would confirm any staff appointments that I might make which were allowed by law amongst others I appointed John S. Wills Esq. *Divis J. Advocate* he has performed the duties faithfully but his appointment has not yet been confirmed. I shall be gratified by having it forwarded. The officers of the 17th and 19th Reg. U. S. Infy. are anxious to know whether their Regimental and lineal Rank has been determined.

W. H. H.

Honb. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esqr. *Secy. of War.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 27th 1813

Har. Pa. 68

SIR:

On looking back on the correspondence between this Department and yourself, it is perceived that under the unexpected and alarming circumstances of General Hull's surrender, a great effort was deemed necessary on the part of the Government to accomplish, if possible, the objects assigned to that officer, and at least to regain what of honor and of territory had been lost. In this view it was thought proper to give to you a carte blanche on the resources of the country, both as to men and money. The late and present admonitions of the Treasury make it inexpedient to continue to this authority its original latitude. The whole military expenditure of the United States cannot exceed one million four hundred thousand Dollars per month. As therefore in a former letter your authority to draw out militia was restricted to the defence of Fort Meigs its dependant posts and your depots of provision on Lake Erie, so in this it becomes necessary to put that of drawing, or of authorizing others to draw bills upon this Department under the following rules, viz. 1. Bills shall not be drawn at a sight.

Major Genl. HARRISON.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 28th 1813

Har. Pa. 68

SIR:

I did propose doing myself the honor of writing to you at some length but as the post hour presses, I am constrained to refer you to the copy of a letter written to B. Genl. [Lewis] Cass, as containing some portion of the views intended for you.

I beg you to accept the assurance of my great respect.

Major Genl. HARRISON.

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 28th Apl. 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 23

DR SIR:

The enemy are determined to put their threats in execution

their columns are now in sight and their Gun Boats with their artillery &c about two miles from us and the woods on both sides of the river are full of Indians. I send this by a confidential person, Mr. [William] Oliver, who will take it on as far as he thinks proper.

Be pleased to write immediately to the Governor of Kentucky—my men are in fine spirits, do not my dear sir doubt the results—the enemy little dream of the bitter pill I have prepared for them. In a little time I hope to be able to inform you of their complete discomfiture. The additional men whom you have ordered out were very acceptable.

Yours truly

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency Govr. MEIGS

MYERS TO PROCTOR

April 28, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison, 381*

We look with confident hope for the report of your success —and brigadier-general Vincent, (who is here, and by whose directions I am writing to you,) has desired me to impress upon you, what essential aid could be rendered to us by the timely arrival here of five hundred Indians; should you have secured Harrison's army, it is the brigadeir-general's desire, and in which I most earnestly join, that you forward to us in the king's vessels to Point Abino, that number with as great expedition as possible. In the event of your having captured Harrison's army, you will see the impossibility under existing circumstances of our taking charge of them here, and therefore brigadier-general Vincent requests you will make the best arrangements in your power to dispose of them, either by securing them at one or the other of your own posts, or passing them on parole into the United States by way of Cleveland or other routes, as you may find expedient; the latter line of conduct is perhaps the most preferable, on account of the state of your supplies of provisions.

Sincerely wishing every success, and hoping to send you, and receive from you, good accounts, I have the honor to be, etc.

CHRISTO MYERS, *Col. Act. Q. M. G.*

Brig. Gen. PROCTOR

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 53)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 28th Apl. 1813

Har. Pa. 4

The columns of the enemy are now in sight; an officer has just reconoitered them who thinks they amount to between two and three thousand the gunboats bearing their artillery &c. are about two miles from us at this moment and the Indians are in swarms through the woods on each side of the River. My men are in fine spirits and we shall soon put them upon a retrograde march. I had a confidential person Mr. [William] Oliver with a few attendants upon fleet horses to carry this to the settlements.[1]

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Obt. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honb. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esqr. *Secy. of War.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 4th 1813.

Har. Pa. 69

SIR:

Your dispatch of the 17th ult. [see above] covering the copy of one from you to Governor Shelby of the 9th [see above] has been received.

The theory of this new rule with regard to the service of militia is to make the law operate on individuals not on collective bodies of any description. So long as we call for companies, regiments and brigades we are sure to have a plentiful

CHILICOTHE, May 5, 1813

1. An express has this moment reached town, bearing despatches from governor Meigs at Franklinton to brigadier-general M'Arthur now at this place. The governor states that he has just received an express from general Harrison, stating that Fort Meigs is under close seige, surrounded by about 3000 British and Indians, which cuts off all intercourse between him and the frontiers, and requests immediate assistance from this state to open the communication; in consequence of which the light companies, and all the mounted volunteers who can possibly be raised, are to march immediately for the Rapids. The drums are now beating to arms; and no doubt need be entertained but that the "backwoodsmen" will do their duty. Clay, with 1500 Kentuckians, is now at Portage river, 18 miles from the Rapids. It is hoped he will not attempt to go through until reinforced. It is thought that Harrison's effective forces does not exceed 1500 men; yet with this number in a strong garrison, well supplied with provisions, ammunition, and cannon, there is little fear of his sustaining a defeat.

P. S. It is about two hours since the express came in; a respectable company is raised and will march in the morning. Ohio is true.

Niles' Register, IV, 178

lack of privates and a great superabundance of officers. If on the other hand we call for individuals we either get them or we do not. In the first case, there is no evil to remedy, in the last the remedy is to do what you propose, to embody the privates and send home the surplus officers. It is by pursuing this plan that we shall avoid imposition, that the state shall be credited with the effective force she gives, that the Union shall be debited with what she has actually received, and that the commands of Generals shall not be nominal only. Governor Meigs cannot but meet you half way in conforming to arrangements productive of effects like these.

You will have seen in my last communication my opinion respecting the probability of an attack on your post.

Major General [Henry] Dearborn sailed from Sackett's harbor on the 23d ult his objects are the destruction of the enemy's naval force at York, (2 frigates) and the taking of forts George and Erie on the Niagara.

Major General HARRISON FT. MEIGS

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters Camp Meigs 5th May 1813

Har. Pa. 5-9

SIR:

I am sorry to inform you of another disaster to the Kentucky troops not indeed bearing any comparison to that of the River Raisin in point of killed and wounded but exceeding it as to the number of prisoners. I had the honor to inform you in my letter of the 28th Inst. [see above] that the British Troops destined to beseige this place was then in view. On the succeeding night they broke ground upon the heights opposite and on the following morning our batteries opened upon them and continued a partial firing throughout that and the following day. On the first of May the enemy returned it from two guns and one mortar battery and on the 2nd from a third Gun Battery. On the night of the 3d they passed a part of their troops to this side of the River and opened another gun and mortar battery within two hundred and fifty yards of our lines. They were soon however driven from that position and obliged to take one at a more respectful distance. On the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Inst. the fire was most in-

sistant and tremendous 5½ and 8½ inch shells with 24 lb. ball fell in showers in our camp and would have produced the most unfortunate effect but from the great pains and labour which had been bestowed in the erection of Traverses which in a great degree shielded our Camp from the former. For the latter there was no prevention but that of taking the Batteries. About 12 o'clock last night an officer arrived in a boat from Genl. [Green] Clay to inform me of his approach and that he would reach this place in about 2 hours. I immediately determined upon a general sally and sent an officer to Genl. Clay directing him to land eight hundred men some short distance above, to attack and carry the battery spike the cannon and destroy the artillery. The Genl. was unfortunately delayed longer than he expected in passing the Rapids and the detachment destined to make the attack did not reach the landing until near nine o'clock. This however did not prevent them from making the attempt and never was anything more completely successful. The four Batteries were immediately taken possession of and their defenders driven off and the cannon spiked. Here the work of our men was done. But that confidence which always attends Militia when successful proved their ruin. Although there was time sufficient to return to the boats before a reinforcement arrived to the enemy, they remained upon the ground in spite of the repeated calls which we made across the River to bring them back and suffered themselves to be amused and drawn into the woods by some feint skirmishing whilst the British Troops and an immense body of Indians were brought up. A severe action then took place. The British immediately intercepted the retreat of our men to the plain on the river where they would have been under cover of our cannon but about one hundred and fifty only—out of nearly eight hundred effectives thus escaped to the boats. When the Ballance of Genl. Clay's force made its appearance and attempted to land above the garrison their flank was attacked by a large body of Indians I immediately ordered out a detachment consisting of part of the 19th U. S. Regt. about one hundred twelve months volunteers and some Militia. They however succeeded in driving the enemy entirely off. Pursuant to the plan which I had formed an attack was then made upon the Batteries on this side of the River conducted by Col. [John] Miller of the 19th Regt.

with part of his Regt. the aforesaid volunteers and a few militia. This attack was also completely successful the enemy were driven from their works a number killed and two British officers and forty one privates brought into camp. This attack was intended to be simultaneous with that on the other side and it was nearly so. Notwithstanding the severe loss we have sustained in the Kentucky Militia the events of the day have been honorable to the American army. The detachment under Colo. Miller suffered very little and had the militia been contented with executing what they were ordered to do every object which I had contemplated would have been accomplished.

I have only time to add that I am confident of my ability to defend this place until the expected large reinforcements arrive and that I am with great respect Sir Yr. Hb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

You will pardon the inaccuracy of this when I inform you that I write it amidst a thousand interruptions. I will endeavor to transmit a more definite account in a day or two if the fort is not again surrounded by Indians, who have, I believe, at this moment all returned.

I have reason to believe that the guns of the enemy were very imperfectly spiked.

HARRISON AND PROCTOR

IN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS MADE BETWEEN BRIGADIER GENERAL PROCTOR COMMANDING HIS BRITTANIC MAJESTY'S FORCES ON THE MIAMIES AND MAJOR GENERAL W. H. HARRISON COMMANDING THE NORTH WESTERN ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

May 7 1813

Har. Pa. 14

The prisoners of the Kentucky Militia now in possession of General Proctor to be sent to the river Huron upon the condition of not serving against Great Britain during the war between that power and the United States. Captain [Samuel] Price of the U. S. Lt. Artillery and twenty regulars of the U. S. Army now in possession of General Proctor will be considered as exchanged and permitted to serve after the termina-

tion of one month. Lieuts. McIntire and Hailes of the 41st Regt. [British] were also to be considered as exchanged but are not to serve excepting on garrison duty until the expiration of the one month. The allotment of prisoners released on each side to be furnished to the respective commissioners of each nation and the surplusage to be accounted for in a future settlement of the account of Prisoners agreeably to the tariff of exchange heretofore established.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON, *Major Genl. N. W. Army.*
HENRY G. PROCTER
Brig. General Commanding His Brittanic Majesty's Forces on the Miami

Head Qr. CAMP MEIGHS 7th May 1813.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 8th, 1813
Har. Pa. 70, 71

SIR:

Your letters of the 21st and 25th ult. [see above] have been received. I never meant that you or your Artillery or stores for the campaign now collected at Fort Meigs should be brought back to Cleveland for embarkation. My intention was that the Boats built there should move along the coast in the wake of the fleet to Sandusky or to the very foot of the Rapids, if that were practicable and expedient, taking in on the route what was wanted. The Boats building, and built, by Major [Thomas Sidney] Jessup are not decked but strong and high sided and very competent to the navigation of the Lake particularly between the chains of islands and the west shore. If Major [Levi] Hukell's continuance with you as Assistant Inspector General can be made acceptable to General Hampton it will be entirely so to me. The exchange of Captain [Daniel] Baker of the 1st Infantry will enable me to give you a second officer of the same grade and department. There will be business enough for both. You may multiply your assistant Dep. Quarter Masters according to the exigencies of the Service. Governor Meigs has recommended Mr. [Joseph] Wheaton for the appointment of D. Q. M. General, Undeceive the Governor. What are the proofs of the facts stated by you in relation to Wheaton? A commission is sent to Mr. [Sam-

uel] Wells. The frontiers of the Territories seem to be in a state of much excitement from the attacks of small parties and the dread of large ones. Would there be sufficient reason for sending Colonel Johnson's mounted Riflemen into that section of the District? You can better estimate the character of their demands than I. So long as they have Malden to defend, or you to destroy, the enemy will not in my opinion take a new object. I shall soon have events in the north to communicate which fortunate or otherwise will have a considerable bearing on your operations.

P. S. Since writing this letter I have seen one from Mr. Calvin Pease dated at Sandusky and stating that you had been attacked on the 1st of May. We look confidently for a good issue to the conflict.

Major General HARRISON FORT MEIGS.

HARRISON GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters FORT MEIGS 9th May 1813

Har. Pa. 22-26

The information received by the General and the movements of the enemy indicating their having abandoned the siege of this post, the General congratulates his troops on having completely foiled their foes and put a stop to that career of victory which has hitherto attended their arms. He cannot find words to express his sence of the good conduct of the troops of every description and of every corps. As well in sustaining and returning the heavy fire of the enemy as for their assiduity and patience in the performance of those laborious duties which the occasion called for. When merit was so general indeed almost universal it is difficult to discriminate. The General can not however omit to mention the names of those whose situation gave them an opportunity of being more particularly useful. From the long illness of Capt. [Charles] Gratiot of the Corps of Engineers the arduous and important duties of fortifying the camp devolved on Capt. [Eleazer Derby] Wood of that corps. In assigning to him the first palm of merit as far as it relates to the transactions within the works the General is convinced that the decision will be awarded by every individual in camp who witnessed his indefatigable exertion, his consummate skill in providing for

the safety of every point and in foiling every attempt of the enemy and his undaunted bravery in the performance of his duty in the most exposed situations. An unfortunate wound in the commencement of the siege deprived the General after that time of the able services of Major [Amos] Stoddard of the artillery whose zeal and talents had been eminently useful. Captn. [Charles] Gratiot in the remission of a severe illness took charge of a battery and managed it with ability and effect. Capt. [Daniel] Cushing of the artillery and Capt. Hall of the 17th Infy. (but doing duty with the former corps) were extremely active and attentive to their post. To Col. [John] Miller and Major [George] Todd of the 19th U. S. Infantry Major [James V.] Ball of the Dragoons, Sodwick and Major Ritzer of the Ohio militia and Major Johnson of the Kentucky militia rendered the most important services to each of the above gentlemen as well as to each Capt. subaltern non commissioned officer and private of their respective commands the General gives his thanks and expresses his warm approbation. Also to Adjt. Brown Mr. Peters conductor of artillery Mr. Lion (principal artificer) and Timberlee and to Sergeant Henderson, Tommes and Meldrum who severally had charge of Batteries and Block Houses. The Battery managed by Sergeant Henderson was as the enemy confessed managed with peculiar efficacy and effect. With respect to the sorties which were made on the 5th Inst. the subsequent information which has been received from the prisoners has given the gallant troops which were engaged on those occasions additional claims upon the gratitude of their General. It is ascertained that in both Instances, the enemy far outnumbered our troops. The General gives his thanks to Brigadier Genl. [Green] Clay for the promptitude with which the detachment of his Brigade were landed and the assiduity given him in forming them for the attack on the left. To Col. Boswell and Major Fletcher for their gallantry and good conduct in leading them in the charge made on the enemy and to Capts. [Peter] Dudley, Simmons and Metcalf the subalterns non-commissioned officers and privates for the distinguished valour with which they defeated the enemy. The Gen. has in the order of the 6th inst. expressed his sense of the conduct of the regular troops and volunteers which were engaged in the sorties on the left flank but he omited to mention Capt. Sebree's com-

pany of Ky. Militia whose gallantry was not surpassed by that of any of the companies which fought by their side. The Pittsburg Blues led by Lt. McGee in the illness of their gallant Captain sustained the reputation which they had acquired at Mississineway the Petersburg Volunteers and Lt. Drums detachment discovered equal intrepidity. To the detachments from the 17th & 19th U. S. Regt. under their respective commanders Capt. [George] Croghan, [William] Bradford, [Angus Lewis] Langhan, [Wilson] Elliott, [Asahael] Nearing the honourable task was assigned of storming the British Batteries defended by two hundred British granadiers and light infantry flanked by an host of Indians and two companies of Canadian Militia, Col. Miller speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of the captains before mentioned and Lieutenants [James] Campbell, [David] Gwynne, [Stephen] Lee, [Samuel] Kircheval and [Jonathan] Rees and of Ensigns [Edmund] Shipp, [Martin L.] Hawkins, [Batteal] Harrison, [Charles] Mitchel and [John] Stockton. The General requests Col. Miller Major Todd and each of the officers above named together with all the officers non commissioned officers and soldiers who were engaged on the 5th Inst. to accept his thanks. The general is under the highest obligation to his staff for their conduct as well in the action of the 5th Inst. as for the assistance which he received from them, throughout the seige. Major [Levi] Hukill the acting inspector General distinguished himself by his assiduity in forwarding the parts of our works which was most necessary and which was most exposed to the fire of the enemy. From Major [Richard] Graham, his aid de camp, his volunteer aid de camp J. Johnson Esqr. and from Lt. [John] O. Fallon acting assistant adjutant general as well as from the Dep. Qr. Master Mr. [James T.] Eubanks he received the greatest assistance. It rarely occurs that a General has to complain of the excessive ardour of his men yet such appears always to be the case whenever the Kentucky militia are engaged. It is indeed the source of all their misfortune. They appear to think that valor can alone accomplish anything. The General is led to make this remark from the conduct of Capt. [William] Dudley's Company of the Regiment as he has understood that that gallant officer was obliged to turn his espontoon [?] against his company to oblige them to desist from a further pursuits

of the enemy in complyance with an order from the General. Such temerity although not as disgraceful is scarcely less fatal than cowardice. And in the instance above had it been persisted in would have given a different result to the action. As the whole of the enemy's force which were placed near the batteries would have been precipitated upon the rear of our detachment. The pursuit being stopped allowed time for a new disposition under cover of our cannon and the enemies batteries were attacked and carried without difficulty.

JOHN O'FALLON, *Act. Assistant Adjt. Genl.*

(A Copy)

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 54)

Head Quarters CAMP MIEGS 9th May 1813

Har. Pa. 10-13

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that the enemy having been for several days making preparations for raising the seige of this post accomplished this day the removal of the last of their artillery from the opposite bank and about 12 o'clock left their encampment below were soon embarked and out of sight. I have the Honor to enclose you an agreement entered into between Genl. Procter and myself for the discharge of the Prisoners of the Kenty. Militia in his possession and for the exchange of the officers and men of the Regular Troops which were respectively possessed by us. [see May 7 above] My anxiety to get the Kentucky Troops released as early as possible induced me to agree to the dismission of all the prisoners I had Altho their was not as many of ours in Genl. Proctors possession. The surplusage is to be accounted for and an eaqual number of ours released from their parole, whenever the Government may think proper to direct it. I am sorry to inform you that the loss of the Kentucky Troops in killed and missing is much greater than I had at first believed. It amounts upwards to three hundred but of these I hope that many have escaped up the north side of the river to Fort Winchester. However much this unnecessary waste of lives may be lamented it will give you great pleasure to learn that the two actions on this side the River on the 5th were infinitely more important and more Honorable to our army than I had

at first conceived. In the Sortie made upon the left Flank Capt. [Asahel] Nearings company of the 19th Regt. a Detachment of 12 Mos. volunteers under Maj. Alexander and three companies of Kentucky Militia under Colo. [William E.] Boswell defeated at least double the number of Indians and British militia. The sortie on the right was still more glorious. The British Batteries in that direction were defended by the Granidier and Light Infantry companies of the 41st Regt. amounting to two hundred effectives and two militia companies flanked by a host of Indians. The detachment sent to attack these consisted of all the men off duty belonging to the companies of [George] Crogan and [William] Bradford of the 17th Regt. [Angus Lewis] Langham, [Wilson] Elliott late [Richard] Grahams and Nearings of the 19th about eighty of Major Alexander's volunteers and a single company of Kentucky militia under Captain Sebree, amounting on the whole to not more than three hundred and forty. Yet the event of the action was not a moment doubtful and had not the British troops been covered in their retreat by their allies the whole of them would have been taken.

It is not possible for Troops to have behaved better than ours did throughout. All the officers exerted themselves to execute my orders and the enemy who had a full view of our operations from the opposite shore declared that they had never seen so much work performed in so short a time. To all the commandants of corps I feel particular obligations. These were Col. [John] Miller of the 19th Regt. of Infy. Col. Mills of the Ohio Militia Maj. [Amos] Stoddard of the Artillery Maj. [James V.] Ball of the Dragoons and Maj. [John T.] Johnson of the Kentucky Militia. Capt. [Charles] Gratiott of the engineers having been for a long time much indisposed the task of fortifying this post devolved on Capt. [Eleazer Derby] Wood. It could not have been placed in better hands. Permit me to recommend him to the President and to assure you that any mark of his approbation bestowed on Capt. Wood would be highly gratifying to the whole of the troops who witnessed his arduous exertions. From Maj. [Levi] Hukill acting Inspector General my aid de Camp Maj. [Richard] Graham, Lieut. [John] O'Fallon who has done the duty of Asst. Ajd. Genl. in the absence of Maj. [Nathaniel] Adams and my volunteer aid de camp John Johnson Esq. I received the most useful assistance.

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the siege and in the two sorties. Those of the latter was much greater than I had at first expected. Want of sleep and exposure to the continued rains which have fallen almost every day for some time past renders me incapable of mentioning many interesting particulars amongst others a most extraordinary proposition of Colo. Proctors on the subject of the Indians within our Boundary. These shall form the subject of a communication to be made tomorrow or next day and for which I will provide a safer conveyance than that which carried this. All the Prisoners and deserters agree in saying that the information given to Maj. Stoddard by Ryland of the British haveing launched a sloop of war this spring is incorrect and the most of them say that the one which is now building will not be launched for many weeks.

I have the honor to be Sir with great respect yr. obt. Humb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secy. of War*

P. S. Capt. [Samuel] Price of the Regt. D. Artillery and the twenty regulars prisoners with Genl. Procter were taken on the north W. side of the river with the Kenty. militia. We had no prisoner taken on this side during the seige. The return of the killed and wounded could not be gotten ready for this conveyance.

GEN. GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP AT FORT MEIGS, May [9], 1813

Har. Pa. 15-17

SIR

On the 5th inst. about 8 o'clock, A. M. descending the Miami of the lake about midway the Rapids, with 1200 of the Kentucky troops in 18 flat bottomed boats, I was met by captain Hamilton [of the Ohio Militia] and a subaltern, who delivered me (as he said) the orders of major general Harrison to the following effect:

You must detach about 800 men from your brigade who will land at a point I will shew about one or one and half miles above the Fort, and I will conduct them to the British batteries on the left bank of the river. They must take posses-

sion of the enemy's cannon, spike them, cut down the carriages and return to their boats. Observing that the British force at their batteries was inconsiderable, but that their main force was at the old garrison, about one and a-half miles below, on the same side of the river; that the Indian forces were chiefly on the right bank of the river. The balance of the men, under your command, must land on the right bank, opposite the first landing, and will fight their way through the Indians to the Fort observing that the route thus to be taken would be shewn by a subaltern officer, there in company with capt. Hamilton, who would land the Perogue at the point on the right bank, at which the boats would land.

The order of descending the river in boats was the same as the order of march in line of battle, in solid column, each officer taking position according to his rank. Col. [William] Dudley, the eldest colonel, led the van, and in this order the river had been descended. As soon as capt. Hamilton had delivered these orders, being in the thirteenth boat from the front, I directed him to proceed immediately to col. [William] Dudley and order him to take the men in the 12 front boats, and execute general Harrison's orders on the left bank of the river; and post his (capt. Hamilton's) subaltern on the right banks to conduct myself with the men in the six rear boats to the Fort. I ordered the 5 boats in the rear to fall in a line and follow me. High winds and the rapidity of the current drove 4 of the rear boats ashore in the attempt to follow on according to order, where they remained a short time, sufficient however to detain them half or 3 quarters of a mile in the rear. To land according to order, I kept close along the right bank until opposite col. Duley's landing. There I found no guide left to conduct me to the Fort as capt. Hamilton had promised. I then made an attempt to cross the river and join col. Dudley but from the rapid current on the falls I was unable to land on the point with him. Being nearly half across the river, and the waves running too high to risk the boat then driving down the current sidewise—veered about the boat and rowed the best way we could to save our boats. My attempt to cross the river to col. Dudly, occasioned all the boats (I presume in the rear of me) and which were then out of hailing distance, to cross over and land with Col. Dudley. Having been defeated in a landing on the left, we then en-

deavored to effect one on the right, even without a guide: But before a landing could be effected we received a brisk fire from the enemy on the shore, which was returned and kept up on both sides and I was in this unavoidable situation compelled to make to Fort Meigs with no other force than about 50 men on board the other boats being still in the rear and to receive the enemy's fire until we arrived under the protection of the Fort. Col. [William E.] Boswell's command (except the men in my boat) having landed to join col. Dudley, were, as I have been informed ordered by captain Hamilton immediately to embark and land on the right hand shore about a mile above the Fort, and prepare to fight his way through to the garrison.

The colonel embarked, landed as he conceived at the proper point, pursuant to captain Hamilton's order, and was forming his men in order of battle, when he was met by captain Shaw, and ordered to march into the garrison at open order, the safest route.

When my own boat landed we were met by two men who took charge of the boat as we understood to bring her under the protection of the fort batteries. Believeing our baggage to be thus made safe, we forbid our servants to carry any portion of it, but loaded them with cannon balls which they bore to the fort. Our baggage was however taken by the Indians in a very short time after we left the boat. Upon receiving the orders of captain Hamilton, I asked if he had brought spikes to spike the enemy's cannon. To which he replied he had plenty.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GREEN CLAY, *Brig. Gen.*

His Excellency, Maj. Gen. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 55)

Head Quarters LOWER SANDUSKY 13th May 1813

Har. Pa. 28-37

SIR:

Having ascertained that the enemy (Indians as well as British) had entirely abandoned the neighbourhood of the Rapids I left the command of Camp Meigs with Gen. [Green] Clay and came here last night, [for[1] the purpose of providing for

1. The parts enclosed in brackets were underscored by some one in Washington.

the better security of this post and to procure some Troops for the protection of Cleveland. Another motive for the trip was the security of the prisoners of war which were sent to the River Huron in their march of 40 miles through a Wilderness from the settlements at the mouth of Huron to Mansfield. Arms and ammunition have been forwarded from this place to them and I shall take care to have the country well reconnoitred between this post and Lake Erie, the only route by which a body of Indians could approach the prisoners. I thought those steps proper altho I have the solemn promise of Gen Procter that the Indians should not be suffered to go in that direction.][1] It is with the greatest satisfaction I inform you Sir, that I have every reason to believe that the loss of the Ky. Troops in killed on the North side of the River does not exceed fifty. On the 10th and 11th Inst. I caused the ground which was the scene of the action and its environs to be carefully examined and after the most diligent search 45 bodies only of our men were discovered. Amongst them was the (weak and obstinate but brave) leader of the detachment Col. [William] Dudley. No other officer of note fell in the Action. I have strong reason to believe that a considerable number of the Kentuckians effected their retreat up the River to fort Winchester.

Gen. Proctor did not furnish me with a return of the Prisoners in his possession altho repeatedly promised. His retreat was as precipitate as it could properly be leaving a number of Cannon Ball, a new Elligant Sling carriage for Cannon and other valuable articles. The night before his departure two persons that were employed in the British Gun boats (American by Birth) deserted to us. The information they gave me was very interesting. They say that the Indians of which there were from 1600 to 2000 left the British the day before their departure in a high state of disatisfaction, from the great loss which they had sustained in the several engagements of the 5th and the failure of the British in accomplishing their promise of taking the post at the Rapids. From the account given by those men my opinion is confirmed of the great superiority of the enemy which were defeated by our Troops in the Troops sallies made on the 5th inst. That led by Col. [John] Miller did not exceed 350 men and it is very certain that they defeated 200 British Regulars,

150 militia and 4 or 500 Indians. That American Regulars (altho they were raw recruits) and such men as compose the Pittsburgh (Pa.) & Petersburg (Va.) volunteers should behave well is not to be wondered at. But that a company of Militia should maintain its ground against four times its numbers (as did Capt. Sebrees of the Ky.) is truly astonishing. These brave fellows were at length however entirely surrounded by Indians and would have been entirely cut off but for the gallantry of Lt. [David] Gwynne of the 19th Regt. who with part of Capt. [Wilson] Elliott Compy charged the enemy and released the Kentuckians. I enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the whole seige. It is considerably larger than I had supposed it would be when I last wrote to you. But it is satisfactory to know that they did not bleed uselessly, but in the course of successful exertions. The return does not embrace the ones who fell on the N. W. side of the Miami.

[I have[1] no immediate fears for any of our posts but Fort Winchester. Genl Clay left there an immense deposit of Provisions but he certainly did not manifest his usual judgment in not reinforcing it. As soon as I do what is requisite in this quarter I shall proceed to upper Sandusky and dispatch some Troops, the first that I can command to Fort Winchester.

I have the honor to enclose you Gen. Procter's proposition to me to exchange the Ky. Militia in his possession for the friendly Indians within our line. I answered him that the subject would be refered to you but that I was pursuaded it would never be assented to.][1]

You will also receive herewith a monthly return of the Troops at Camp Meigs. For the last month the communication with the other posts being cut off, the returns were not received. A copy of Gen. Clay's Report [see May 9 above] to me of the manner of his Executing my order for the attack at the enemies Batteries is likewise forwarded—By which it will be seen that my intentions were perfectly understood—and the great facility with which they might have been executed is apparent to every individual who witnessed the scene. Indeed the cannon might have been spiked, the carriages cut to pieces, the magazine destroyed and the retreat effected to the Boats without the loss of a man. As none were killed in taking the Batteries, so complete was the surprise. An extensive open plain intervenes between the River and the Hill

upon which the Batteries of the enemy were placed. The Hill plain and was raked by 4 of our 18 pounders a 12 and a six. The enemy even before their guns were spiked could not have brought a single gun to bear upon it. So perfectly secured was their retreat the 150 men who came off effected it without loss and brought off some of the wounded one of them upon the backs of his comrades. The Indians followed them to the woods but dared not enter into the plain.

I am unable to form a correct estimate of the Enemies forces which attacked Fort Meigs. The prisoners varied much in their accounts. Those who made them least stated that the Regulars at 550 and Militia 800 but the number of Indians were beyond comparison greater than have ever been brought into the field. Numbers arrived after the seige commenced. I have caused their Camps in the south East side of the River to be particularly examined and the general opinion is that there could not have been fewer on that side than 1000 or 1200. They are indeed the efficient force of the enemy.

[Our[1] officers are unanimously of opinion that 100 of our men could in the woods defeat 200 British Regulars easier than 100 Indians.

The public property has suffered very much during the siege. The 24 pound shot and 8½ inch shells destroyed the roofs of all of our Block Houses and Stores and the rains which fell the greater part of the time has greatly injured many articles. I am under the greatest apprehension for the salted beef and Pork which had been put down in bath. Before the siege commenced the making of barrels to repack it had progressed considerably. The seasoned timber was however nearly all made up and Kiln drying of the rest was necessarily suspended. Gen. Clay has particular directions to attend to it and no one has more judgment in such matters.][1]

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of 14th 17th 18th and 28th Ult. and 4 Inst. [see above]

Upon a reconsideration of all the circumstances which induced me to order Gen. [Duncan] McArthur & Col. [John] Miller to repair to the Miami Rapids I do not consider that I merit the rebuke contained in your letter of the 14th Ult. When the order was given to Colo. Miller an Ohio Militia Col. was on his way to camp Meigs whose rank would have given him the command after the departure of Gen. Leftwich and

Crooks and whose militiary information is perhaps as limited as that of any person who ever held a commission. Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell of the 19th Regt. was shortly to return from Furlough and was intended to supply Col. Millers place. In the meantime an officer every way adequate was found on the spot in the person of Major [John] Whistler.

When the order was first given to Gen. McArthur to repair to the Rapids in the event of his receiving the appointment, it was done from the motive of securing an officer of rank and experience for the command of that post.

I think I am incapable of suffering myself to be governed by any personal consideration in opposition to my duty and the Public interest I believe that no one who is acquainted with the situation of my family when I last come into the settlement can believe that there ever existed stronger claims upon the feelings of a husband and a Father than those by which I was assailed urging my remaining at Cincinatti for some weeks. The afflictions and suffering of the Major part of my family are without a parallel, yet it will I think be admitted from the promptitude of my return to Fort Meigs that I should not have been induced to go into the settlement at all had I not supposed that it was my proper post—and that a Junior Officer could be entrusted with the command of Fort Meigs. My after experience has convinced me of the correctness of this opinion. The order to Gen. McAruthur was long since countermanded.

I have not yet been honored with your command upon the subject of the assembling the Troops, the direction of their march etc nor do I know whether it is expected that I should give directions with regard to the providing of Artillery, ordinance Stores etc. From a letter writeen by Major [Isaac] Craig at Pittsburgh to Major [Amos] Stoddard it would seem that order had been given to the Dy. Commander of Ordnance there to make the proper provisions. I can now state to you a circumstance which prudence forbid me to mention in any former letter—at the commencement of the seige we had but 360,18 Pd. shot and less than that quanity for 12 pounders. the whole quanity of the former sent on from Pittsburgh was 500. We were therefore obliged to be extremely sparing of our fire from the 18 pounders or I do believe from the effect which they produced on the Enemy's Batteries we could have

completely silenced them before they were spiked. Their 12 pounders supplied us with shot of that description but they had no eighteens their large guns being all twenty fours.

I am sorry to inform you that Major [Amos] Stoddard died the night before I left the Rapids of a Lock Jaw produced by a slight wound from the fragement of a shell which struck him on the thigh. Several have died in this way from their great unavoidable exposure to cold.—but the Sergeons assured me and my own observations sanctioned the opinion that perhaps there never was so many instances of desperate wounds being likely to do well. The Gallant Capt. [William] Bradford will recover.

I shall go from here to upper Sandusky and shall take my station at Delaware or Franklinton until the troops are assembled. Gen. Clay who commanded at the Rapids is a man of Capacity and is entirely to be relied on. I have the Honor to be with great respect

Sir your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Sectary of War*

P. S. I am mortified upon examing the enclosed monthly return. You will pardon its slovenly appearance when you are informed that it was made by a young gentleman who never did anything of the kind before. Nor was there an officer in Camp Meigs Hukel excepted & the two captains of the Engenier Corps who could have made it better. Capt. Adams has not yet joined me.

MEIGS: GENERAL ORDERS

Headquarters, LOWER SANDUSKY, May 14, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 223

The governor of Ohio hastens to inform the good citizens of the state, who have rallied and repaired to his standard, upon his call to 'arms' with a promptitude and zeal which proves their patriotism and love of country, that their services are rendered unnecessary by a change of circumstances which required the call. The most important fortress of the western country, Camp Meigs, was invested by the enemy—information of it reached his excellency, and orders immediately issued. In an instant you were soldiers—the prompt-

ness, good order and regularity of your march excites admiration. His excellency is entirely satisfied with your conduct; and for it returns his warmest thanks. He is sensible your domestic avocations at this season of the year, must require your laobrs at home—a sufficient force reached his headquarters to afford adequate relief, which he designed to command in person—many more were on their march, but thanks to the valor, talents and exertions of the commanding general, and his brave little army, they have convinced the enemy of the rashness of his enterprize, compelled him to raise the seige, and seek his own safety in flight! The governor, therefore, gives you an honorable discharge, which I am ordered to make public; and also that you have the thanks and respect of his excellency the commanding general who is advised of your movements.

By his excellency's command,

HENRY BRUSH

HARRISON TO POAGUE

(No date given) (May 15, 1813)

Penn. Mag. of History, XXXII, 117

DEAR SIR:

The enemy have fled & as it is difficult to get provisions in front for the pursuit, you will be so obliging as order Col. [Philip] Barber to return immediately to St. Marys with his Regiment as well as Jenkinsons Battalion & the Col. must have directions to furnish a small escort of from 20 to 30 men with the waggons which may be ready to come out with provisions from St. Marys. With your own Regiment you will continue to open the road on to Fort Defiance & bring on with you the stores &c. of the Militia which are under the charge of Col. [William] Jennings. You will be pleased also to dispatch Capt. [Angus] Langham immediately with all the Beeves excepting about 60 & these sixty you had better send back to Col. Jennings to keep.

Order Capt. Langham to proceed with the utmost rapidity with the beeves & with the pack-horses, which were at Col. Jennings block house. If you did not bring the pack-horses with you Capt. Langham must not wait for them but must come on with the beeves & when Col. Jennings sends on the

pack horses to you, you will be pleased to dispatch 20 men under a subaltern with them,

Yours respectfully

WM. H. HARRISON

Col. [ROBERT] POAGUE

I have ordered your tents & baggage to be brought in from St. Marys to you. You had better send back the Quarter-Master to attend to bringing them on.

HARRISON: GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, May 16th, 1813

Dawson's *Harrison, 395*

The commanding General has observed with the warmest gratitude the astonishing exertions, which have been made by his excellency governor Meigs, and the generals and other militia officers of this state, in collecting and equiping a body of troops for the relief of camp Meigs. But the efforts of these men would have been unavailing, had they not been seconded by the patriotic ardor of every description of citizens, which has induced them to leave their homes, at a most critical season of the year, regardless of every consideration but that of rendering service to their country. The General found the road from Lower Sandusky to this place, literally covered with men, and amongst them many who had shared in the toils and dangers of the revolutionary war, and on whom, of course, there existed no legal claim for military services. The General has every reason to believe, that similar efforts have been made in Kentucky. He offers to all those brave men from both states, his sincere acknowledgements; and is happy to inform them, that there is at present no necessity for their longer continuance in the field. The enemy has fled with precipitation from camp Meigs, and that is in a much better situation to resist an attack, than when the last siege was commenced.

By order of the General,

R. GRAHAM, *Aid*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 56.)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 18th May, 1813

Har. Pa. 38-39

SIR:

I had the honor this moment to receive your favour of the 8th inst. [see above] I am perfectly convinced that nothing can be more correct than the opinion you have given of the nature and extent of the warfare that is and will be carried on upon the frontiers of the Territories. I will at least guarantee that no attempt in force will be made on the Wabash, nor do I believe that any other than light parties will invest the Illinois. Dixon if he has artillery may attempt to carry one of the posts on the Mississippi or perhaps attack some of the exposed villages, but I rather suppose that he will not descend lower than Prairie de Chien. There is no object that would authorize the risk and there would be great difficulty to persuade the Indians to attack posts and villages in any other way than by treachery. I am perfectly acquainted with the Wabash and Illinois Indians and I am fully persuaded that since the departure of Tecumseh and his brother from that quarter the larger part will remain neutral. Such is the activity of these people in the kind of warfare which they carry on upon the frontiers that a very few can do a great deal of mischief. I ascertained that seven of those scoundrels killed no less than thirty odd of our people (men, women, & children) in the course of a few weeks of the spring of 1812. I shall set out for Cincinnati the day after tomorrow. I will from thence be able to give you more correct opinion of the course which is to be pursued to protect the frontiers. I will answer your inquiry on the sub. of [Joseph] Wheaton tomorrow, and am with great respect sir Your

Humble Servant.

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG

WILIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 57)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON May 18th, 1813

Har. Pa. 40-47

SIR:

In the evening of the day on which I had the honor to address you from Lower Sandusky Gov. Meigs arrived at that place with about 500 mounted and dismounted Infantry.

Upon a consultation with the Gov. it was determined that all the Troops of which there were as he supposes, two or three thousand in motion, should be dismissed as soon as possible, excepting two hundred for the Garrison of Lower Sandusky. There appeared to be no motive for retaining them as it was evident that the enemy, Indians as well as British, had returned to Malden. Expresses were sent along the principal roads with directions for all the troops of every description to return; more than three fourths of them were volunteer corps raised by popular and patriotic men who turned out for the occasion without wishing or expecting any compensation. There were however amongst them some drafted men to make less the deficiency of the former call. Of these I desired the Governor to form two companies of 100 men each for the garrison of Lower Sandusky and I ordered the Garrison of that place amounting to 125 to proceed to Cleveland. As they were taken from the Militia of the Connecticut Reserve, the neighbourhood of that place. The governor has gone on in person to Cleveland and will complete this detachment to two companies of one hundred each—at least he will endeavour to make this arrangement, but it cannot be done without the consent of both men and officers. The law of this State makes a company to consist of 72 non-commissioned officers and privates. The men have the privilege of electing their own officers and they cannot be forced to serve in any other way than their own laws direct until they are organised under one passed by the United States. I found Gen. Cass with Gov. Meigs. He had ordered in a full company of 13 months Recruits from Zanesville and a part of another from this neighbourhood. They have been directed to return to this place.

Gen. McArthur was on Hull's Road marching in the direction of the Rapids with about 300 men and will probably have proceeded as far as Fort Findley before he meets the messenger who was sent with order for his return. I have directed him to ascertain the situation of Fort Winchester and reinforce the Garrison. From the Kentucky newspapers I learn that Colo. [R. M.] Johnsons Regt. of mounted riflemen were ordered by Gov. Shelby to rendevous at Georgetown on the 20th inst. for the purpose of marching to Fort Meigs, I have dispatched an express to the Colo. desiring him to dismiss his

men. The citizens of Ohio and Kentucky deserve great credit for the promptitude of their exertions upon this occasion. But the above detail of the loose manner in which they were proceeding to the scene of action sufficiently indicates what would have been their fate had they attempted to force a passage to Fort Meigs with the small detachments that were in advance.

By a gentleman who has just arrived from Lexington I learn that the 24th Regt. left that place on Friday last and that after marching a few miles upon the Limestone road, took the direction of Georgetown and Cincinnati. I have had no communication whatever with Colo. [William P.] Anderson and I am not acquainted with the route prescribed to him. As Cleveland will soon have a respectable Militia Corps for its protection I would by no means recommend that the 24th Regt. proceed thither.

General Cass informed me that it is one of the most sickly places in the Western Country; that even in spring the inhabitants are much subject to intermittent and billious fevers. I should certainly prefer the route by the two Sanduskys or that of St. Marys and Fort Winchester for all the troops coming from Kentucky or those reunited in this state west of the Muskingum River and south of the dividing ridge between the waters of Lake Erie and those of the Ohio. The Militia above mentioned and such of the Recruits as are raised in the Connecticut Reserve and East of the Muskingum would, I should suppose, be adequate to the defence of Cleveland.

I hope to receive your particular instructions. I am far from wishing to avoid responsibility. I am only fearful of counteracting your intentions without knowing them. The recruiting of the 12 months men suffers much from the want of Clothing. Gen. Cass informs me that he has not heard that any has been sent in.

I have seen and conversed with several of the Militia who were made prisoners on the north side of the Miami on the 5th inst. They state the loss of the enemy in killed and wounded as very great. One of them who was wounded himself says that there were sixty nine of the enemys wounded on board the same vessel with himself. The Indians also suffered very severely but retaliated upon our unfortunate prisoners. The man from whom I received the information states that at least 40 were killed after they were prisoners that the British in vain endeavoured to prevent it and a British soldier

was shot down (a centinel I believe) in endeavouring to counteract them in the presence of the British officers. Numbers of the Indians left their allies on the Evening of the 5th.

I have the honor to enclose you a paper presented to me by all the field officers shortly after the attack upon Fort Meigs commenced requesting me to allow the men an additional half ration; being fully convinced that they could not undergo the excessive labour required of them unacquainted as they were with those Economical arrangements which enables the experienced soldier to subsist upon his allowence. I could not hesitate to comply with the recommendation of the officers and the measure will I hope meet your approbation.

In the course of last winter I directed Major [Amos] Stoddard to prepare an estimate of the Ordnance, ordnance stores and ammunition which would be wanted for the ensuing campaign. His estimate was made out and forwarded to Capt. [Hezekiah] Johnson at Pittsburgh who delivered it to the Dy. Commissary of Ordnance there. As I had no information at that time of the determination of the Government to obtain the naval superiority on Lake Erie, I directed the cannon (5-18 Pounders) to be sent early in the spring to Cincinatti, that it might be taken by the route of the Miami of the Ohio and that of the Lake to Fort Meigs. I was accidently informed some time since that five cannon of that description had arrived at New port, but that it was not known whether they were intended for the North Western Army or to descend the Mississippi. Three days ago I received information from the Dy. Commissary of Ordnance [Abram R.] Woolley that they were those which I had required. The season of navigating the Miamis has now passed and I have no alternative but that of bringing them up the Ohio to the mouth of the Scioto and from thence by land to Sandusky. I have directed the Dy. Commissary of Ordnance to send the remaining part of the Stores required to such point on the lake as may have been selected for the other stores which are to be sent from Pittsburgh.

Major [James V.] Balls Squadron is now here the horses suffered considerably during the seige, many were killed and the whole so reduced that it was with difficulty they were gotten in. They will however be soon and cheaply recruited in the rich pastures which this country affords.

Major [Amos] Stoddard's death will make it necessary that

another field officer of Artillery should be sent on to this Army. Indeed a few experienced subaltern officers of that Corps would be highly desireable.

A Sergt. [John] Henderson of the Petersburgh Va. Volunteers had charge of the most important Battery during the siege and distinguished himself much. That corps consists chiefly of young Gentlemen of the first respectability in the State. Mr. Henderson is not inferior to any of them in correct and gentlemanly deportment. He would accept of a Second Lieutenancy of Artillery and would I am pursuaded do honor to the appointment.

I have the honor to be with Great Respect Sir Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

JOHN ARMSTORNG Esq. *Sect. of War*

HARRISON TO B. G. ORR

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, May 19, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa.—Military Affairs I, 645

SIR:

You will be pleased to provide for the issuing of provisions at such places within the settlements as Brigadier Generals [Duncan] M'Arthur and [Lewis] Cass, and Major [J. C.] Bartlett, the Deput Quartermaster General, may require. I can give no direction with regard to the forwarding of provisions to the frontiers, or the lakes; nor information as to the delivery of those which the Government have accumulated there, until I receive further information from the Secretary of War. But the posts of Cleveland and Lower Sandusky having been exclusively furnished by the late contractor (Mr. Porter) it will be necessary that you make immediate arrangements for issuing at both these places by the 1st of June. Provision should be made at Cleveland for at least eight hundred daily issues, and at Lower Sandusky for four hundred.

I am, respectfully, your humble servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

BENJAMIN G. ORR, *Contractor*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 58)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 19th May 1813

Har. Pa. 48-52

SIR:

The circumstances which occasioned the suspicions against Capt. [Joseph] Wheaton and which I learned from Capt. [John H.] Piatt Dy. Qr. M. Genl. are as follows. He was sent from Pittsburgh with some cannons in Waggons, a number of Cannon Carriages and some waggons with stores and ammunition in the whole about 70 teams. His route lay through New Lisbon in this state, Canton, Wooster and Mansfield to Upper Sandusky and he was furnished by the Quarter Master with 7500 Dollars for forage and other incidental expenses. Upon his arrival at Canton he drew upon the Secretary of War for a considerable sum, if I recollect right 2500 or 3500 Dollars —at Wooster 30 miles from Canton he sent an Express to Capt. Piatt requesting a supply of 3000 Dollars, which was sent to him at Wooster he was also furnished with about 1000 bushels of grain, deposited there by Capt. Piatt At Mansfield 30 miles from Wooster he again sent to Capt. Piatt for 2 or 3000 Dollars which was by my order refused. But he received there 600 bushels of grain from Capt. Piatt's Agent. From Wooster to Mansfield there are no settlements from thence to Sandusky a distance of 45 miles, there is not a house. Capt. Wheaton reached the latter place early in Jany and in a few days after the cannon and waggons arrived. The Horses so worn down the greater part of them drawing empty carriages, that they could scarcely be gotten into the settlement. In a short time after his arrival Capt. Piatt informed me that he was convinced that Capt. Wheaton could not have expended in the public Service all the money he had received. That he appeard to wish to get as much as possible in his hands and that he believed that Wheaton had a large sum in a small trunk in his possession. I was so fully impressed with the probability of this being the case that I had at one time determined to seize the trunk and have it examined. Wheaton afterwards made an attempt, in settling with the Team drivers, to get from them a voucher which would have been passed to his credit in the War office, and give them his own private due bills for the amount; this was however prevented by Capt.

Piatt and I believe that the Waggoners were sent back to Pittsburg without their pay. There is no necessity for my saying any thing to Gov. Meigs to develope Wheatons character. The latter was sent from this place by Major [John C.] Bartlett as Quarter Master for the Troops which the Gov. was taking on to the Rapids when I met them at Lower Sandusky the Gov. informed me that he had never seen a man so entirely worthless and unfit for any kind of duty and that he was laughed at and scorned by all the detachment. Such indeed is his character. I regret the necessity of speaking in this way of a man who never did me an injury and employed more of his thoughts and time in endeavours to conciliate and gain my confidence than he does in the discharge of the duties of his appointment.

In the beginning of March I suffered Doctor [Garret E.] Pendergrast to leave the army on Furlough for six or eight weeks upon his informing me that he would incur a great loss of property if he were not permitted to go to Philadelphia. He pledged himself to return as there was no surgeon belonging to the Regular Troops I selected Doctor [Hugh] Stannard the Senior Surgeon of the Virginia Brigade of Militia to take charge of the Hospital Stores and superintend the Hospital until the return of Doctor Pendergrass. Since the discharge of his Brigade I have continued him, because there was no other in service within my reach that could be trusted with the important duties that he performs. The Surgeon of the 19th Regt. has been represented to me, by several Medical and other respectable characters upon whom I can rely, as being a perfect quack, alike destitute of Talents, medical experience and education. This will surprise you when you recollect that he was recommended by the members of the Senate of this State. He wrote a recommendation, procured the signatures of several members and the rest signed it because others had done it. They now, I am told, express wonder at his having been appointed. Doctor Stannard will continue to act until another is sent out. He would, I believe gladly accept a prominent appointment, I know that he stands very high in the estimation of Gov. Barbour of Virginia.

Mr. B. G. Orr met me at this place and showed me a copy of a contract he has made for supplying the Troops under my command. Is it intended that the provisions belonging to

the United States should be delivered to him? I think the public would gain by turning it all over to him with an allowance of 12½ per cent for issuing.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your
Obt. Humble Servant.,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq, *Sect. of War*

P. S. The christian name of Sergt. Henderson whom I had the honor to recommend to you for an appointment is John.

GENERAL ORDERS

Adjutant General's Office, Head-Quarters, KINGSTON,
May 21, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 272

The commanding general has great satisfaction in announcing to the troops the brilliant result of an action which took place on the banks of the Miami river on the 5th inst. with part of the North Western Army of the United States, under major-general Harrison, and which terminated in the complete defeat of the enemy, and capture, dispersion or destruction of thirteen hundred men, by the gallant division of the army under the command of the brigadier general [Henry] Proctor. Five hundred prisoners were taken, exclusive of those who fell into the hands of the Indians, and whose number could not be ascertained.

Brigader-general Proctor praises the gallant conduct of those under his command, and refers to official despatches not yet received. The enemy's loss was very severe; while that of the British amounted only to 14 rank and file killed—1 subaltern, 4 serjeants, and 37 rank and file wounded. Of the militia, 1 captain killed 4 rank and file wounded.

EDWARD BAYNES, *Adj. Gen.* [*British Army*]

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 21st 1813

Har. Pa. 72, 73

SIR:

The letters you did me the honor to write to me on the 5th, 9th and 13th [see above] instant have been received and sub-

mitted to the President, who has been pleased to direct that I should communicate to you, and through you to the Troops composing the garrison of fort Meigs, his thanks for the valor and patriotism displayed in the defence of that place, and particularly by the Corps employed in the Sorties made on the 5th instant.

Your future requisitions for ordnance stores will be governed by the quantity on hand at Fort Meigs and Franklinton and the number and calibre of the pieces you propose to take with you against Malden. Your whole train, if I am well informed, amounts to thirty five pieces of which nine are eighteen pounders.

The 24th Regiment was on the 10th instant at Lexington (Ky.) on their way to Cleveland. You will give it any other point of rendezvous you may think proper and adopt such means to assemble the other parts of your Division, as will be most advisable. On this head I would but suggest that the arrangement which shall best mask your real design and most impress the enemy with a belief that your march to Malden will be by land will be the best.

Clothing for the 26th, 27th, and 28th Regiments has been forwarded from Philadelphia.

The last accounts of the Boats preparing by Major [Thomas S.] Jessup were favorable. That officer will necessarily report to you and take your orders.

General Proctor's proposition concerning the Indians within our Limits, was artful and perhaps but meant to excite suspicions of them on our part, while it held out to the Indian the paternal regards of H. B. Majesty.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 59)

Head Quarters, CINCINNATTI 23rd May, 1813

Har. Pa. 53-56

SIR:

Upon my arrival here yesterday evening, I was informed that Col. [R. M.] Johnson had arrived at New Port a few hours before with his Regiment of mounted Infantry. He called on me this morning and delivered the letter of which the enclosed is a copy. [see following] He further stated to

that when he met with the person bearing my order for turning back the Troops which had been embodied for the relief of Fort Meigs he had consulted the officers upon the propriety of dismissing their men and it was their unanimous opinion that if they were now disappointed in their expectation of engaging in actual service they could never again be brought into the field. This consideration together with the letter the Col. had received from you informing him that I had been authorized to employ the Regiment for the protection of the Frontiers induced him to determine to come on until they received further directions from me.

Being as yet uninformed as to the situation of affairs on the Illinois, Wabash and Mississippi, I could not determine upon the propriety of sending these Troops there immediately. But under the circumstances I am pursuaded that a demonstration in the direction of Fort Wayne, by such a body of mounted men would be attended with very happy effects. I am not entirely at ease on the subject of the garrisons in that direction. The enemy, if they understand their business (wanting provisions as they do) will certainly make an attempt to carry some of our weak posts where we have large deposits. Col. Johnson's Corps will make all safe in that quarter. Should it be determined to send them to the Territories the route down the Wabash from Fort Wayne would be quite as eligible as any other and by a little inclination to the north they might strike some of the Indian Villages on the St. Joseph, or the heads of the Illinois.

I shall order them therefore to Fort Winchester in the first instance from thence they can go to either of the Territories, make a Coup De Main on some of the Villages in the Vicinity of Chicago or some short time hence in conjunction with the squadron of dragoons an attack upon Detroit or Brownstown by a very favourable route leading from Fort Wayne across the head Waters of the River Raison. I have always been partial to the assembling a body of Troops in the Vicinity of Fort Wayne. It is in the immediate line of communication between the Indians of the Wabash, Illinois, Mississippi and the South and West sides of Lake Michigan and Malden.

Col. [William P.] Anderson with the part of his Regiment which was at Massac has arrived here. The Col. has just waited on me and shewed me his orders which were to

proceeed to Cleveland. Being at this place there is no more eligible route even to Cleveland than that by the way of Franklinton and Upper Sandusky. But I should suppose that it is no longer desirable that he should go to Cleveland. I fear before he could reach that point that the vessels may be on the way up the lake to receive the Troops.

I shall leave this in a few days for Franklinton and commence the assembling the Troops as soon as I receive your orders.

I have heard indirectly that the recruiting of the 12 months men goes on briskly in Kentucky. But I have received no Report. Indeed I know from common fame only who has been appointed the Col. of the Regt. to be raised there.

I have the honor to be with
great respect, Sir, Your Obt. Hbl Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

R. M. JOHNSON TO HARRISON

CINCINNATTI, 23rd May, 1813

Har. Pa. 57, 58

SIR:

The attack upon Fort Meigs, the small force which you were known to have to defend that important post, the danger of the intermediate Posts on the left wing of the army under your command and other considerations equally important and impressive induced me to anticipate the wishes of the President and Secretary of war in marching the Regt. of Mounted Volunteers to your command with every practicable dispatch. You are aware that the Gov. of the state of Kentucky had also recommended the measure.

After having fixed the day of Rendezvous I was happy to receive a letter from the Secretary of war in which he intimated that you were authorized to call the Regt. in executing the plan of a Campaign which you had reported to the Secretary, and stating positively taht you were authorised to use the Regt. for the defence of the Territorial Frontiers. Under this view of the subject, I considered it my indispensible duty to march the Regt. to the Ohio River and prepare for actual service.

I am well convinced that if the Regt. should now be dismissed, it cannot easily be collected, for reasons obvious and not necessary to be enumerated. My desire to continue in the service with the Regt. does not arise more from the great anxiety of officer and men to serve their country, than from what I consider the real advantage which will result from that service. I am now anxiously waiting to know what is your determination and whether you consider the service of the Regt. at this time important and necessary, if so, to receive your orders upon that ground and I wish your decision, as I am convinced that what ever course you may pursue, it will meet the entire approbation of the President of the U. States and Secretary of War.

With sentiments of great
respect and esteem your Obt. Servt
(Signed) R. M. JOHNSON

General W. H. HARRISON

DR. SAMUEL M'KEEHAN'S NARRATIVE

May 24, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 244

On the 31st of January last, I was ordered by general Harrison to proceed to the river Raisin, with a flag of truce, and from thence to Malden, if not stopped by the Indians. We arrived at the foot of the rapids of the Miami at dark, and not finding a company of rangers as expected, we encamped in a cave [?], the horse and cariole before the door, and a flag standing by them. About mid-night the Indians fired in upon us, killed Mr. Lemont, wounded myself in the foot, and made us prisoners. After dispatching Mr. Lemont with the tomahawk, scalping and stripping him, they seized my horse, harness, great coat, blankets and other cloathing, and one hundred dollars in gold, which the general had sent to procure necessaries for the wounded of general Winchester's army.

That night I was made to walk more than twenty miles to where captain Elliott was stationed with a party of Indians. The Captain treated me politely, and sent me to colonel Proctor. I was scarcely seated before the colonel began to abuse general Harrison, said he had been used to fight with Indians, and not British; found fault with my instructions, and said

the flag was only a pretext to cover a bad design. I rebutted his insinuations with indignation, which I believe was the cause of all my troubles, since I was not received in my official character until the 5th of February, when I was informed by Proctor's aid, that I should attend the wounded with Dr. Bower, and that I should be sent to the United States, but by a different route from that by which I came. Dr. Bower in a few days was sent home and I detained.

On the 2d of March I was arrested by order of colonel Proctor, and accused of carrying on a private correspondence. On the 8th, without having any trial, I was ordered to Montreal, and hurried on from Fort George night and day, although thinly clothed and the weather very cold. From Kingston to Prescott, I was made to eat with the officer's servants! This course of torture being finished on the 28th, when I arrived at Montreal, and without being asked any questions, or being suffered to ask any myself, I was put into a dungeon, eight or ten feet below the surface of the ground, where I had neither bed or bedding, chair, bench or stool—denied pen, ink, paper; or even the use of a book, for two weeks. The only fresh current of air that passed through my apartment came through the bowels of the privy! Here I was kept thirty-three days, when I was to my great joy, put up with the American prisoners, and with them permitted to remain till last Monday, when I was liberated by the intercession of lieutenant Dudley, of the navy. Colonel Baynes aid to the governor told me that the outrage which had been committed on my person was contrary to his orders.

I left fourteen American prisoners in jail, who were kept in close confinement, notwithstanding colonel Lethbridge and major Shackelford had pledged their words to captain Conkey, before he left Montreal for Quebec, that they should have the liberty of the town during the day. But the captain was scarcely gone, when the pledge was either forgotten or disregarded. The prisoners now are not permitted to procure such necessaries as their small stock of money would provide. Sometimes they are half a day without water, and two or three days without wood, and if they complain, they are cursed and abused by the jailor, and told they are only allowed a quart of water in the day. I am requested to represent their situation to gen. Dearborn, which I intend to do as soon as I arrive at Sackett's Harbor.

This is a sketch of the indignities I have had to put up with since the last of January.

I am yours, &c.

SAMUEL M'KEEHAN

JOHN WINGATE TO HARRISON

ST. MARY'S, May 28th, 1813

Har. Pa. 59-61

SIR:

The copious fall of rain has given an opportunity of sending on all the company stores at this place, and the principal part at Amanda. 18 flat boats started from this post last evening well loaded and there are 28 boats at Amanda but have not men to mann all of them, every man able to do duty at this post descended the St. Mary's with boats from here. I have ordered all from Amanda but a Sergeant, Corpl. and 12 men, and have ordered Ensign [James] Gray from Ft. Lorimies with 17 recruits to Ft. Amanda to descend with boats to the rapids; it appears I cannot raise as many men as will mann all the boats at Amanda. Col. [B. G.] Orr used every exertion to procure some assistance from the Indians, but could not prevail upon them to send one man, there is something new amongst them. They find a thousand faults, they say there is but few of them and we wish to have them cut off by placeing them in the front of battles and other dangerous places, and that they receive no pay for their services, they also say that the British Indians, (those that were prisoners) had told them they had taken a number of towns and that their forces would soon meet those in the north and take their whole country, which appears to have staggered their faith & Col. Orr and others have attempted to explain away those impressions but without success. They are still under the idea that the Americans are trying to deceive them and that they stand in a very critical situation, and appeared to be at a stand how to act.

The Boats at Amanda will not start for 3 days as the water is now too high and rising, we will start as many as possible, all if we can. I have directed them to make a stand at Fort Winchester and send two or three of the men to Fort Meigs and ascertain whether it be safe to proceed to the Rapids and

if not safe to ask assistance & Further orders from Gen. McArthur who I understand commands at Ft. Meigs.

I expect a small rifle company from the 5th division to be here this evening or tomorrow, one half at least, ought to be stationed at Lorimies; you will see the necessity of more men being ordered on to this place.

Capt. [Hugh] Moore complains of not being reinforced at Ft. Wayne the Company I expected here this evening are very anxious about some money. I promised them a month's pay before they agreed to come on. I think a line from Your Excellency to the District paymaster would be of service for if they should disperse we shall be left in an unpleasant situation on this line. I have written Mr. [Jesse] Hunt on the subject &c.

A few minutes ago Black Fish an Indian came in, he states that one of Blue Jackets sons was at Wogpockhana, a few days ago this fellow fought against you at Fort Meigs, this will explain the former part of my letter.

I have just learned but 15 Boats will start from Amanda and that they will set out about 10 o'clock tomorrow. There ought to have set out 28 but there are no men to take them.

There is yet then, a very considerable quantity of provision &c.

Your Excellency will at once see the necestity of sending more troops on this line.

I am Yours &c with High Esteem

JOHN WINGATE, *Br. Gl. 3rd Detachment O. M.*

His Excellency Genl. HARRISON

A true copy WM. WINCHESTER, Lt. Aid de Camp

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 31, 1813

Har. Pa. 74, 75

SIR:

Your letter of the 19th instant has been received. [see above]

Arrangements will be made for increasing the medical staff of your command.

Herewith inclosed you will receive a copy of the contract for supplying the troops in the State of Ohio. You are au-

thorized to fill up the blank attached to the copy and to appoint agents to deliver over to Messrs. [B. G.] Orr and [Aaron] Greely such provisions now in deposit as you may deem proper to issue according to the agreement, taking their duplicate receipts for the same, one of which must be transmitted to the accountant of this Department and one to the Superintendent General of Military Supplies that Orr and Greely may be held accountable for the provisions so received.

Major Genl. HARRISON

GENERAL ORDERS

CHILLICOTHE, June 5, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 271

The unaccountable delay which has taken place in the marching of some of the detachments of troops destined for the North Western Army, makes it necessary that some effectual remedy be provided for an evil which is pregnant with the most fatal consequences.

The general, therefore, directs that every officer when ordered to march with a detachment of troops, shall, upon receiving the orders, commence a journal in which he shall insert the date of his having received the order, and every circumstance which tends to procrastinate his march, or delay it after it shall have commenced until his arrival at the point of destination. In all cases where the orders may have been received from the general, or where detachments are destined for the head-quarters of the army, or any post upon the frontiers, a copy of the journal so kept and certified on honor by the commanding officer, will be forthwith forwarded to the adjutant general's office. In all other cases the copy of the journals will be sent to the officer ordering the march.

By order,

ROBERT BUTLER, *Cap. 24th Inf. Assist, Adj. General*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 61)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 8th June, 1813

Har. Pa. 62-66

SIR:

I met here a soldier of the 19th Regt. who had been taken

from Camp Meigs in March last by the Indians, ransomed by some of our citizens at Detroit and landed with about 50 of the Kentucky Militia at Huron on the 19th Ultimo. This man confirms the account of the dispursion of the Indians and he says that he was repeatedly informed that they went off in high disgust against the British, many of them declaring that they would never again make war upon the United States. The reason assigned for their disatisfaction was the failure of the attempt upon Fort Meigs. The British had promised to put them in possession of all the Country between the Ohio and the Lake. The provisions which they expected to take at Fort Meigs was to afford them the means of further operations. Many of them observed that they were now convinced that the British were unable to perform their promise as they had been repulsed from Fort Meigs.

I have no doubt of the correctness of this information. But I should deeply regret to having any effect to retard our operations or lessen the force which it was contemplated to employ. The declarations of an Indian and even his feelings today give no security for his conduct on tomorrow—nor ought any calculations to be drawn from the destruction of their destined presents at York. A substitute can easily be found in the large stock of goods which are in the possession of private Traders. The British agents are well acquainted with the Indian Character. Long experience has put them in possession of all the means by which their confidence is to be obtained or their passions stimulated. The communication from Gov. [Ninian] Edwards to Gov. [Isaac] Shelby and which I have seen published in the Kentucky papers shows the correctness of the opinion which you long since formed. That as long as they had Malden to protect or my Army to destroy they would never think of any other than a desultory war upon our Western Settlements. All the Indians that they can possibly raise from the country between the Lakes and Mississippi will certainly be brought down to Malden.

It appears to me that a collateral expedition of (to the one across the Lakes) mounted men directed immediately against Detroit or wherever the Indians might be found would be highly useful. It could be accomplished with little expense. Col. [R. M.] Johnson's Regt. and the Dragoons under Lt. Col. [Jas. V.] Ball might be encreased by Volunteers from Ken-

tucky and this state who would serve for 30 or 40 days without pay to a most formidable body.

Will you be pleased to inform me whether such an expedition will be permitted by the Government. The Volunteers I speak of will not be Militia but associations of Individuals who will select their own officers and which in this country will bring out the best men in it, generally those who are no longer on the Militia rolls—at least four fifths of the officers will be of that description.

I did myself the honor to inform you that Capt. [Nathaniel] Adams had declined the appointment of Asst. Adjt. Genl. As there was a necessity of having an officer of that department with me I have appointed Capt. Robt. Butler of the 24th Regt. to do the duty. He is well qualified for it and I should be extremely gratified if he could get the appointment permanently. Indeed he has some claim to it having been appointed by the President early last Winter Asst. Dy. Adjt. Genl. He did not however receive any notification of his appointment. It was made in the first instance by me upon the recommendation of Genl. Winchester. The misfortune to that Gentleman and the disbanding of the greater part of his army rendered this employment in the Staff unnecessary until the law was repealed under which he was appointed.

I must beg leave also to recommend that Major [John C.] Bartlett be promoted to the rank of Quarter Master Genl. The laborious duties of that department require a higher compensation than he receives and as to his abilities to discharge them I should not hesitate to prefer him to any other. Mr. [James] Brown of Orleans and Mr. [Henry] Clay of Kenty, are both intimately acquainted with him.

The 24th Regt. arrived here last Evening. It is much reduced by sickness, the reports this morning make only 314 rank and file present fit for duty.

I have the honor to be with great Respect
Sir Your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War,*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT June 9th, 1813

Har. Pa. 76

SIR:

General [Benjamin] Howard and Governor [Ninian] Edwards urge the necessity of more troops in that quarter and there being no other disposable force for that purpose at this time, the President directs that you order Colonel [R. M.] Johnson with his Regiment of mounted Volunteers directly to Kaskaskias to report to General Howard.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO R. M. JOHNSON

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 11th June, 1813

Har. Pa. 67-72

DEAR SIR:

Your letters of the 4th and 5th Inst. were received yesterday I inclose you a copy of a letter which came to hand last evening giving an account of the glorious success of our army on Lake Ontario and of the departure of the forces which defended Malden to the assistance of their defeated brethren below. Never was a more glorious opportunity offered to make a brilliant stroke in the direction of Malden as it is ascertained from the accounts brought by all the Kentucky prisoners that its Indian defenders had dispersed immediately after returning from the seige of Fort Meigs. Unfortunately my Infantry is not in a situation to make a movement which is calculated to hold the ground that we should occupy.

Nothing therefore can be done but by way of *Coup De Main*. Your situation is eminently calculated to make one against Brownstown or any other point in the neighbourhood of it which from the information you may receive you may think yourself able to attack with success.

I send the bearer to you. Mr. McClusky [Col. James McClosky] who is well acquainted with the Countries around Detroit and who will be able to give you every necessary information with respect to its Topography.

In making the attempt above suggested it is impossible that I can give you any other than general instructions for the Government of your conduct. Your course in other respects

must be governed by Circumstances as they arise and the information you may receive. Should you have obtained intelligence to induce you to believe that the enemy are still in considerable force at or near Malden the expedition must be given up. But if no information has been received by you to contradict the opinion entertained of the dispersion of the Indians and the departure of the British Troops for the Lower part of Upper Canada I would have you take the road formerly recommended to you, leading to the River Raisin and proceed along it to the exterior settlements on untill you shall obtain information that can be relied on of the situation of the enemy. If it should be such as to promise success to an attack upon Brownstown or any other of the Enemies Establishment in that direction you will immediately make it. If otherwise you will return to Fort Winchester or to Fort Meigs as you may think proper.

You must constantly have in mind that a partial success will be much better than to run any considerable risk to obtain a greater. Your Corps being however finely mounted your movements may be so rapid as to allow you to make your stroke and escape pursuit. Unless the enemy should be embodied to an amount greatly superior to your force.

The great danger lies in the inattention, (so customary with Militia) of your officers and men, to those measures which are necessary to guard against surprise and the confidence and rashness with which a first success is so apt to inspire our back-woods-men. I rely upon your authority and exertions to guard you against the effects of a disposition which has already proved so false. When you make an attack let your plan be fairly and distinctly formed and see that your principal officers well understand it as must every subordinate one the part he is to act. Assure all your men that those who distinguish themselves be their station what it may, shall be properly noticed in my communication to the President. On the contrary those who, by their disobedience or want of attention to the orders they may receive, may endanger the corps or prevent its success shall be publicly and everlastingly disgraced. Your men must be particularly cautioned against shouting or firing upon their approach to the enemy until ordered to do so. An imprudence of this kind enabled many of the Indians to escape Col. [James] Campbell at the Missis-

sinway Towns and discovered to Genl [Henry] Proctor the advance of Col. [William] Dudley against his Batteries some time before he would otherwise have known it. To prevent a similar occurence you are hereby positively ordered to direct the officers to cause the first man who offends in this particular to be shot down. The lives of hundreds must not be jeopardized by the folly or villany of a few individuals.

I am sorry that the provisions and stores sent from St. Mary's have been stoped at Fort Wayne. If the river is sufficiently high, I hope you will use the authority vested in you to order the Boats to proceed unless there is a probability of their being taken by the enemy.

A detachment has been sent up from Fort Meigs to Fort Winchester to bring down the Boats that are there. If they have not all left the latter they can be sent down under the escort of the Kentucky Militia company which was sent there from Fort McArthur. In the deficiency of men at Amanda the Company last spoken of should have been sent up to bring down the ballance of the stores and provisions.

I shall set out in a day or two for the margin of the Lake, your letters may be sent to Camp Meigs and if I am not there to Lower Sandusky. Inform the people at the River Raisin that I shall soon be there with an army to protect them, and that it is my intention to establish a considerable post there in my advance from Fort Meigs.

I am with Regard Sir Your humble Servant

(Signed) WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Col. R. M. JOHNSON *Com. a Regt of Mounted Infantry*

A true Copy JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 11th, June 1813

Har. Pa. 73-77

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 19th and 21st Ult. [see above]

The approbation bestowed by the President upon my own and the conduct of the troops employed in the defence of Fort Meigs, is highly flatering, and will prove a great stimulus to future exertions.

I received last evening a letter from the Adjutant General of Genl. [Henry] Dearborn's army, conveying the glorious intelligence of the taking of Fort George and the repulsing the enemy in their attack upon Sacketts Harbor. Col. [Winfield] Scott also states that it was understood that Genl. [Henry] Proctor had gone down with his force to the assistance of Genl. Vincent and that he supposes the junction would take place near Lake Simcoe. This, must however, be a mistake, If Proctor has taken that direction, he must have gone down Lake Erie as far as Long Point, from which a settlement and road extends to that, leading from Sandwich up the Thames to York but whatever route he may have taken, his absence from Malden affords an opportunity for the commencement of operations in that direction, which I am unable to profit by, in any other way, than by a *Coup De Main* with the mounted force under Col. Johnson.

The Col. left St. Mary's on the 5th inst. with seven hundred men for Fort Wayne, from whence he was to get into the road leading from the St. Joseph's river to the river Raisin and act as circumstances might authorize against the enemy, and then proceed to Fort Winchester.

I have this morning dispatched Mr. McCloskey an intelligent young man, who is well acquainted with the country, with instructions of which the enclosed is a copy. [see above] I am convinced that an opportunity of making a very brilliant stroke will be offered him, there is nothing to be dreaded but the Col.'s inexperience and, the want of discipline amongst his men; for zeal, activity, and bravery, his corps is exceeded by none. My presence is indispensibly required here or I should have taken this command myself.

The horses of Col. [James V.] Ball's squadron suffered so much in the siege of Fort Meigs that they are not yet fit for service, but will be so in a short time.

Capt. [James R.] Butler of the twelve months Vol. and Lt. [David] Gwynn of the 19th Regt arrived here the day before yesterday from Fort Meigs; from them and the letters brought by them, I learn that the troops at that post had been reduced by sickness to five hundred effectives. The prevalent diseases were the dysentary, and measles, the former brought on by exposure during the siege, seized almost every individual. There were however, but few deaths, and much the greater

portion of the sick were convalescent and but few new cases. A drove of fine fat Beeves which reached the fort some days ago, will add greatly to their recovery.

Every exertion is making to push on the new raised troops towards the Lake, the twenty-fourth Regt. would have marched tomorrow, but for a heavy rain, which fell last night, and which has rendered the creeks impassible, I shall go with it or follow soon after.

Gen. [Duncan] McArthur, [Lewis] Cass, and [James] Findley have recommended to you a Mr. [Simon Zelotus] Watson for the appointment of topographical engineer to this army, from what I have seen and heard of him he appears to be qualified for the appointment and perhaps better acquainted with Canada than any other person in the United States.

I have the Honor to be With Great Respect Sir

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of war*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT June 14th 1813

Har. Pa. 77

SIR:

The commissions may be bestowed as you propose in your letter of the 5th instant. My preceding letters have authorized you to assemble the troops where you may think best—keeping in view their prompt embarkation when the vessels shall be ready for action. The clothing for the three new regiments has been long since on the road for Chilicothe and Newport.

The order given for issuing half a ration per man extra, may have been justified by the circumstances of the siege, but ought to have terminated with these.

I have not received the list of prisoners of war who have enlisted. There is on the subject of exchanges, an obstinacy and insolence on the part of Sir Geo. Prevost which must be corrected.

It would be of much importance to have circulated among the hostile tribes of Indians the late occurrences on Lake Ontario and Niagara River. How could this be done? The enemy

will no doubt endeavor to keep these poor wretches in the dark.

The whole number of Deputy commissaries of Ordnance authorized by law is four. I have proposed to Congress to add five others. This proposition if adopted, will give room for Mr. [Robert D.] Richardson.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO JOHN H. PIATT

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON June 18th 1813

Har. Pa. 102

SIR:

You will superintend the issues and safe keeping of all the provisons belonging to the United States except those at Camp Meigs, the two Sanduskys, Delaware, Franklinton, Chilicothe and those to the eastward of the Scioto.

The Contractors are not to be suffered to issue at any of those places where the public have provisions.

Every possible exertion is to be made, to have the provisions from Fort Wayne, Fort Winchester and Amanda taken to the Rapids, and that at Lorimie's taken to St. Marys.[1]

I am Respy. Yr. Humble Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

JOHN H. PIATT *Dy. Commng. Genl.*

HARRISON TO B. G. ORR

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, June 20, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Affairs I, 645

SIR:

I am directed, by the Secretary of War, to complete the arrangements with you for turning over to you all the provisions which have been purchased on the public account.

1. *From the North West.* Major gen. Harrison was at Franklinton, June 16. Col. Anderson with a regiment of regulars, 800 strong, had arrived there from Tennessee, where they were recruited. We may look for offensive operations in a few days. The governor of Ohio has invited his fellow-citizens to join gen. Harrison in a short tour of duty in the territory of Michigan and district of Malden, against their British enemies and their ferocious allies, that peace may rest on their borders. They are to be mounted.

A regiment of 12 months men, raised in Kentucky, and commanded by Col. [Thomas Deye] Owings, were to march to join Gen. Harrison about the 24th of June.

The death of gen. Green Clay, of Kentucky, at Fort Meigs, has been announced. We are happy to say the report is not true. He had been ill, but was convalescent.

Niles' Register IV, 289

It is necessary, therefore, that you should immediately meet me at Lower Sandusky, in order that the business may be finished as soon as possible. I have directed that no issues of provisions be made, on your account, at any of the posts where the public have them. There is, I imagine, full as much provisions on hand, the property of the United States, as will be wanted for the campaign some fresh beef excepted.

I am, etc.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

B. G. ORR, *Contractor to the Eight Military District*

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS, June 20th, 1813

Har. Pa. 78-81

DEAR SIR:

Two men, one a Frenchman and the other a private in the late Col. [William] Dudley's regiment have just arrived from Detroit and from whom we have the important intelligence that the enemy contemplates another attack upon this Garrison.

The Frenchman states "that the Indians had for some time been urging Genl. Proctor to renew the attack. A council of war was held a few days since when it was determined to renew the attack on Fort Meigs, and the combined forces were to set out on this day or tomorrow at furthest with that view.

From every information the Indians would be about 4,000 strong with the expectation of an additional reinforcement of perhaps as many more. The British Regulars (about 1600 strong) from fort George and Fort Erie, had been sent for and were expected at Malden.

The Canadian Militia had been paraded on the 4th June (the Kings birth day) and after a speech by the Genl had been ordered to yield up their arms being deemed unworthy his majesty's service.

Tecumseh was encamped on the River Rouge near its mouth.

The Prisoner, Thomas Law of Capt. Kerrs Company Kentucky Militia, states "on the 5th May he was taken prisoner by the Indians and carried about 150 miles above Detroit to the Sajuna [Saginaw] Tribe where he remained with two other Prisoners untill a few days past when all three attempted their escape.

They were discovered by the Indians fired on and scattered

but neither killed. He then made his way good to the neighbourhood of Detroit when he fell in with the Frenchmen whose statement precedes and who agreed to accompany him to this place."

When at a small distance from Detroit he was met or overtaken by a large portly man of fair complextion who tole him to hurry on to this place with all possible expedition and inform the Commanding officer there that this place would be again besieged. The enemy would consist of about 400 Indians 15 or 1600 regulars (a reenforcement just arrived at Malden) and the whole regular force from that post, and that the enemy would set out by Monday—tomorrow for this place.

He also states that previous to his leaving the Indians nearly all the warriors from the Saguna tribes had left their Towns for Detroit.

That the person who gave him this information states as his opinion that the enemy intended an attack on the post in the rear of this and that his opinion was founded on information secured from a squaw.

The officers of the garrison have been generally consulted an they give the fullest confidence to the belief that the enemy contemplate another attack on this Fort nor do I hesitate to join in the belief.

The importance of this communication needs no comment from me.

We shall be prepared to give our enemy a warm reception come when they will. I have every confidence in your exertions and feel that it is through you this army looks for triumphs over its enemies.

I have sent express on different routes and to different posts to meet you and enclosed copies of this communication to Gov. Meigs and Shelby. I have taken the liberty to order Colo. [R. M.] Johnson's regiment of mounted men from Fort Winchester to this place immediately.

By different detachment sent from this place we have received from Fort Winchester about 1200 barrels flour including that escorted by Ensign Gray from Amanda.

I am with high consideration and respect your Humble Servt

(Signed) GREEN CLAY

His Excellency Major Genl. WILLIAM H. HARRISON

A True Copy JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

Harrison to B. G. Orr

Head Quarters, Franklinton, June 22, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Affairs I, 645

Sir:

Your letter of this date is now before me; the proposition contained in it cannot be acceded to. The only arrangement which I think myself authorized to make, is that of delivering over to you all the public provisions, of every description, which have been purchased for the army, and taking your receipt for it, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of War's instructions. I must observe, also, that most of the provisions are placed in situations where it was never intended they should be used; nor can I say how far the United States will be bound to pay for the transportation of it. This question will remain for the determination of the Secretary of War. I have also to inform you that a contract exists and is now in operation for transporting the provisions which are at Norton and Upper Sandusky to Lower Sandusky. The public teams are also engaged in this business. Should it be determined that the contractors are to pay the expense of transportation, all that is transported after this day will of course be charged to them. I cannot give you a correct statement of the provisions we have on hand; it is, however, sufficient to serve the whole of the troops to be employed within this district, and in the operations against Detroit and Malden, at least, until the first of December, next.

I am, very respectfully, your humble servant,

William Henry Harrison

Harrison to Governor Meigs

Head-quarters, Franklinton June 23d, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 305

Dear Sir:

An express has just arrived from camp Meigs, bringing information that an army of British and Indians were about to make another attack upon that place. I think it probable that fort Meigs is not the object, but that the attack will be upon Lower Sandusky, Cleveland or Erie. I shall set out early in the morning for Sandusky, and will keep you constantly apprised of the events passing in that direction. I am your friend,

Wm. H. Harrison

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 64)

(Head Quarters) FRANKLINTON, June 23, 1813

Har. Pa. 83

SIR:

The letter from Genl. [Green] Clay of which the enclosed is a copy was received by an express this moment arrived. [see June 20 above]

The five companies of the 24th Regt. are between Upper and Lower Sandusky, one hundred and forty of the 26th Regt. and about sixty of the seventeenth, are at this place, about fifty of the latter are on the march from Cincinnati.

The recruits of the 26th when assembled will amount to about three hundred, one fourth of them, are however, prisoners of War.

I send this through to meet the mail at Zanesville. I have sent an express to Col. [R. M.] Johnson, directing him, if possible to get into Fort Meigs, should he be unable to do so he will proceed to join the troop on the road from this to Camp. Meigs. I have sent an express to inform Major [Thomas J.] Jessup and Capt. [Oliver H.] Perry of the navy of the movements of the enemy.

I shall set out tomorrow myself for Sandusky.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 65)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 23rd June 1813

Har. Pa. 84, 85

SIR:

Having understood that insinuations had been made to the prejudice of Col. [James] Morrison late Dy. Qr, Genl. of the North Western army whilst acting in that capacity, justice to that Gentleman induces me to declare that I am fully pursuaded that no man in the U. States could have performed the duties of that Department with more zeal, fidelity and aility than did that Gentleman. Such were his arrangements that in despite of the most unfavorale winter perhaps that has ever been known in the Western Country for such operations, the Army would have been supplied with provisions in its advance

to Malden. The great expenses of his Department were early foreseen and stated by him to the Secretary of War, and although it cannot be denied that great abuses have been practiced by many of the inferior Agents of the Department, they were unavoidable from the necessity that existed of employing men for whose character he was obliged to rely upon the information of others.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Sir Your Obedient Servt.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 66)

Headquarters FRANKLINTON, 24th June 1813

Har. Pa. 85-90

SIR:

I wrote to you last night hastily encloseing a copy of a letter just received from Gen. [Green] Clay. I think it most probable that the enemy will attack some other point than Fort Meigs; their great objects are to get provisions and destroy our vessels before they are ready for service.

There are at Lower Sandusky about five hundred barrels of flour I sent Col. [Samuel] Wells off last evening to that post with directions to take command of it and should the British approach it in force to destroy the stores and fort and retire towards Upper Sandusky with the Garrison which is composed entirely of mutinous militia. The post indeed could not be defended against Heavy artillery which could be brought by water to the spot. Provisions being necessary to the enemy, and our supplies so large, that it appears to me to be our policy to destroy any of our magazines rather than run any great risque of having them taken.

I have directed Col. [William P.] Anderson to halt between Upper and Lower Sandusky and fortify his camp. I shall reach him tomorrow night. The troops that are coming on in detachments from the recruiting rendezvous have been ordered to follow in that way.

Mr. [Ben. G.] Orr the contractor declines taking the public provisions untill he can see you for which purpose he sets out this morning for Washington, he complains of the want of

funds and asserts that he has purchased or left money to purchase a considerable quanity of provisions at Cleveland, this he ought not to have done, at least not to a greater amount than for the temporary supply of Cleveland and Lower Sandusky as he knew of the immense supplies we had on our hands.

I enclose herewith a statement of the provisions now on hand at Fort Meiges.

I have the honor to be with great respect your Obedient Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

Report of provisions remaining at different posts on the Center and Left wing of the N. W. Army the purchases of John H. Piatt Depy. Purchasing Commissary on the 24th day of June 1813.

Name of Post	Bbl. Flour	Bbl. Biscuit	Bbl. Whiskey	Bbl. Salt	Bbl. Pork	Pounds Bacon	Boxes Soap	Boxes Candy	
Ft. Winchester..	1,209	.....	247	119	13	20,000	10	18	Part of the flour damaged being sunk in the river after leaving Amanda and St. Marys and for the want of proper care after it arrived at Ft. Winchester.
Ft. Jennings.....	26	.....	3½	15	.....	600	.....	1	Good ord.
Amanda.....	400	20	69	45	.....	110,000	14	23	"
St. Marys.....	106	83	9	½	.....	8,000	3	6	"
Loramies.....	1,590	.....	153	.....	15	.....	5	5	"
Greenville.....	.....	90	.....	.....	.....	18,360	.....	.....	"
Piqua.....	332	.....	28	6	.....	1,200	8	4	"
Dayton.....	163	.....	25	3	.....	4,000	6	4	"
Ft. Findley.....	60		30	50	.....	500	28	.....	"
Ft. McArthur....	536		43	14	.....	.....	21	12	"
	3,422	193	607½	252½	28	162,660	95	73	Total Amt

At all the above mentioned Posts I have appointed issuing commissaries by Order of Major Genl. William H. Harrison at thirty dollars per month who will continue to issue till arrangements are made for the contractors to receive the public provisions at those posts.

JOHN H. PIATT

John H. Piatt to Harrison

Cincinnati, June 30, 1813

Am. State Papers Military Affairs, 653

Dear Sir:

Having made the necessary arrangements, I returned to this place on the 28th, and shall take every possible care to have the provisions in my charge taken care of, and issued in the proper manner. I have now ready two hundred and twenty-five beeves, taken up at Manary's block-house, which shall be forwarded whenever your excellency thinks proper to give the order. Your family are in good health.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

John H. Piatt

Harrison to Secretary of War

(No. 68)

Head Quarters Lower Sandusky July 2nd 1813

Har. Pa. 91-94

Sir:

I did myself the honor to write to you on the 23rd Ult. [see above] from Franklinton communicating the information I had received from Fort Meigs and my intention of setting out for that post the next day. I overtook the 24th Regt about 20 miles below upper Sandusky in the evening of the 26th and having selected the men who were able to make a forced march to the amount of 300 I proceeded with all possible expedition and on the evening of the 28th reached Fort Meigs. I found that Col [R. M.] Johnson's Mounted Inft. had been there some days. As Genl [Green] Clay could give no fresh information of the movements and designs of the enemy I directed Col. Johnson to despatch a select party of men to the river Raisin to procure it. The Colonel took command of the party and returned to Fort Meiges the night before last, bringing with him two Frenchmen one of them a citizen of the Michigan Territory the other a British Subject. The Colonel visited all the inhabited Houses at the River Raisin.

The information derived from all of them correspond and among them was Col. [Francis] Navarre a Militia officer of Respectability. They had heard of no reinforcement of British Troops arriving at Maldon nor any considerable accession

of Indians since the seige of Fort Meigs. The Indians had pressed Genl. Proctor to make another attack upon Fort Meigs and was much disatisfied with his putting them off. They at length heard of the progress of the war below and the taking of Fort George through a Mr. Kinsey an Indian trader [John H. Kinzie, founder of Chicago]. Proctor caused Kinsey to be seized, the Indians demanded and obtained his release, and he had held councils, the proceedings of which were kept secret from the British. Co. Navarre also informed Col. Johnson that one hundred warriors principally of the Ottawa tribe had passed the River Raison in Boats and canoes to take scalps in the vicinity of this place.

As there was no object of importance to keep me longer at Fort Meigs I set out from thence yesterday with an escort of Col. Johnson Regt. and came to this place in the hope of meeting with Col. [James V.] Ball's squadron with which and the mounted riflemen I brought with me I expected to defeat any attempt of the Indians above mentioned. Unluckily they had made a stroke the day before killing at a farmhouse near this place 3 men a woman and two children. They returned towards Fort Meigs and I am in hopes that Col. Johnson, whom I ordered to follow me will meet with them.

Col. [James V.] Ball has not arrived but will be here in a few hours. His destination is Cleveland. I have ordered there also, all the recruits enlisted for the 27th Regt in the Connecticut Reserve and shall proceed there myself tomorrow.

Upon the arrival of Col. Johnson at Fort Wayne he deemed it proper to follow some Indians, that had killed three men in a Boat descending the St. Marys, as far as the Potawatimie Town or the St. Josephs of Lake Michigan. He saw several small parties of Indians but was unable to come up with them. The Towns were destroyed by a Detachment which I sent from Fort Wayne last September and have not since been rebuilt. The colonel returned to Fort Wayne and from thence descended to Fort Winchester where he was preparing to execute my order for an attack upon Brownstown when he received a letter from Gen. Clay requiring him to repair to Fort Meigs. His horses are too much reduced to undertake the proposed enterprise against Brownstown. I have therefore directed him to go to Huron River to recruit them. The enemy are so illy supplied with provisions as to justify very con-

siderable risk to obtain them. Should they reduce Fort Wayne or Fort Winchester what they might obtain at those places will be of little services to them as they cannot take it off. From this place Huron or Cleveland it could be easily carried to Malden. At the two places there is a considerable quantity of flour the property of Individuals.

The position which Col. Johnson will occupy will enable him to reinforce the troops at this place or Cleveland with great facility.

The monthly Returns from the several posts under my command having not reached Fort Meigs till a few days before my arrival there, it is not in my power at present to forward a Genl. Return, But have left Capt. [James R.] Butler the Actg. Asst. Adj. Genl. at Fort Meigs to prepare one from there which will be forwarded as soon as completed.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Sir
Your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. Gen. ARMSTRONG. *Secty. of War*

R. M. JOHNSON TO HARRISON

Camp at LOWER SANDUSKY,
July 4th, 1813

McAfee, *History, 310*

DEAR SIR—

I arrived at this place last evening with a part of the mounted regiment, after two days march from camp Meigs, leaving two companies four miles in the rear, who were unable to reach this place; besides about twenty horses left on the way, which I am in hopes will be able to get back to camp Meigs or come to this place in a few days, where we can keep them together and recruit them. Having been in the most active service for upwards of forty days, and having travelled upwards of 700 miles, much of it forced marching, it is natural to conclude that most of the horses are weak; and we feel great pleasure, and obligations to you, in finding your arrangements such as to enable us to recruit the horses of the regiment. To be ready to move with you, to Detroit and Canada, against the enemies of our country, is the first wish of our hearts. Two great objects induced us to come—first, to be at the regaining of our own territory and Detroit, and at the taking of Malden and secondly to serve under an officer

in whom we have confidence. We could not have engaged in the service without such a prospect, when we recollected what disasters have attened us for the want of good generals. We did not want to serve under cowards, drunkards, old grannies, nor traitors, but under one who had proved himself to be wise, prudent and brave. The officers of the mounted regiment had some idea of addressing you on their anxiety to be a part of your army in the campaign against Canada, and of giving you a statement of the importance of having an opportunity to make the regiment efficient for such a campaign by recruiting their horses. As to the men they are active, healthy and fond of service. This morning I have sent out 100 on foot to scour the surrounding country; and wherever we are we wish continual service. Our regiment is about 900 strong when all together. I have left 100 at Defiance to regain some lost horses, and to guard that frontier.

You have not witnessed the opposition I encountered in raising the regiment. Every personal enemy, every traitor and tory, and your enemies, all combined—but in vain. Nothing but the hurry which attended our march prevented me from having 1500 men. Nothing but the importance of the service, which I thought we could render, would have justified my absence from the present catch penny congress. (The great object of the session was to raise a revenue) My enemies, your enemies, the enemies of our cause, would exult if the mounted regiment should from any cause, be unable to carry a strong arm against the savages and British, when you strike the grand blow.

It is with much diffidence I write you anything touching military matters; but the desires of my soul and the situation of the regiment, have induced me thus freely and confidentially to express myself. In the morning we shall leave this place for Huron, ready to receive your orders, which will always be cheerfully executed at every hazard.

Your obedient servant

RD. M. JOHNSON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 70

Head Quarters CLEVELAND July 6th, 1813

Har. Pa. 95, 96

SIR:

I arrived here at 9 o'clock this morning. I found Major

[Thomas S.] Jessup with about 170 effective men, 80 of which are of the Artillery Corps viz. Capt. [Stanton] Sholes company of the 2nd Regiment and the small detachment that was taken with Capt. [Samuel] Price.

I have had only verbal accounts of the progress of our naval armament at Erie towards completion. A letter from Capt. [Oliver Hazard] Perry unfortunately passed me on the way hither and will not arrive until late this evening. I am informed, however that the vessels are equipped and waiting only for their crews. It is highly desirable that they should proceed up the Lake as soon as possible. By taking possession of the Harbour at the Bass Islands they would oblige the ships of the enemy to confine themselves to Malden or risk a battle in the present deficient state of their crews. Is it not indeed the intention of the Government to bring to speedy issue the contest for the naval superiority upon this lake?

In a former letter you did me the honor to inform me that the deficiency in the regular troops contemplated to be employed under my command, was to be made up with militia. From whence are these Militia to come? and by whom called into service? They could be furnished with most convenience and marched to the Lake much sooner from the upper counties of Pennsylvania and Virgina, than from Kentucky or even from this state. There will be no difficulty in getting the Kentucky Militia now in service to cross the Lake, nor am I apprehensive that any will exist with those which may be taken from the other states.

I have the honor to be with great respect and consideration Your

Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. J. ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 71

Head Quarters CLEVELAND July, 9th, 1813

Har. Pa. 97-99

SIR:

I had not the honor of receiving your letter of the 9th of June, [see above] until the evening before last, it had been, by a blunder of the post master at Chilicothe sent to Cin-

cinatti; the moment I received it, I dispatched a special express to Col. [R. M.] Johnson directing him to proceed immediately to Kaskaskias. I have left to him the choice of the two routes, Vis, by Forts Winchester and Wayne and down the south side of the Wabash to Vincennes, or that by U. Sandusky, Fort McArthur, St. Marys, Greenville. The old Delaware towns, or White river, Ft. Harrison and Vincennes.

I am still of opinion that the fears entertained of an invasion of the Illinois and Missouri Territories, by any considerable force, are entirely groundless. All the accounts lately received from Malden and Detroit, agree as to the daily expectation of the arrival of [Robert] Dixon with a further reinforcement of northern and Western Indians.

I have as yet received no information from Capt. [Oliver H.] Perry. My anxiety to know the precise situation of our naval armament, has induced me to dispatch an officer to Erie.

A company of the 27th Regt. will probably arrive here this evening, Major [Robert] Morrison who was sent by Genl. [Lewis] Cass to command the two companies ordered here, arrived a few days ago. I am sorry to find that he, as well as Maj. [Jeremiah R.] Munson the other Major of the Regiment are prisoners of war, as I am told is the case with several of the other officers, and a number of the men. It is much to be regreted that one of those regiments had not been allotted to Tennessee, or the upper parts of Virginia and Pensylvania.

Major [Andrew Hunter] Holmes has arrived at this place.

I have the Honor to be With great respect Sir,

Your Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

N. B. Lt. [William O.] Winston's resignation is accepted to take effect this day.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 72)

Head Quarters CLEVELAND 9th July 1813

Har. Pa. 100

SIR:

The uncommon sickness of the Troops for two months past and the great waste of Hospital stores and medicines by the Militia Surgeons and mates at the small posts render it nec-

essary that a supply should be forwarded as soon as possible. I do myself the Honor to enclose a list of such as will be immediately wanted, furnished by Dr. [Hugh] Stanard.

I have written to the Dp. Qr. Master Genl. at Pittsburgh to send on by land to this place, a few articles of groceries and some muslins. Permit me to request that orders be given for all the liquor destined for the Hospital department to have a dry Barrell put over that which contains them. Experience has long since convinced all those in the Western country who are desirous of having their Liquors secured from plunder and adulteration, that it is the only way of affecting it.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

The following is a list of Medicine and Hospital Stores which will be immediately wanting.

Fort Meigs, June 30, 1813

Peruvian Bark (in powder)	50 lb.	Blisting Ointment	20 lb.
Opium	10 lb.	Bees Wax	20 lb.
Camphor	10 lb.	Muriated Acid	4 lb.
Calomel	5 lb.	Sulphuric Acid	4 lb.
Corrosive Sublimate	2 lb.	Nitric do	4 lb.
Tartar Emetic	2 lb.	Vials	5 gross
Gambage	2 lb.	Instruments—	
Jalap	10 lb.	Amputation	3 setts
Ipecauanto	17 lb.	trepanning	3 do
Rheubarb (in powder)	10 lb.	Pocket	3 do
Kino	15 lb.	Cases Scalpels	No. 6
Colombo (in powder)	20 lb.	Lancets	3 doz.
Nitre Crude	20 lb.	Splints	12 setts
" Sweet Spirits	40 lb.	Sponge	7 lb.
Glaubers Salts	50 lb.	Muslin	1000 yds.
Prepared Chalk	20 lb.	Wine	200 gals.
Caster Oil	12 gal.	Brandy or Rum	100 do
Olive Do	5 "	Vinegar	200 "
Gum Arabic	20 lb.	Molasses	200 "
Allume	5 "	Coffee	300 lb.
Aequous	20 lb.	Hyson Tea	50 lb.
Adhesive plaster	20 lb.	Rice	5 barrels
Barley	2 barl.	Sugar	6 "
Chocolate	300 lb.	Sago	50 lb.
Tapioca	50 lb.		

H. Stanard
Hospital Surg. Mate.

R. M. JOHNSON TO HARRISON

Camp MOUTH HURON, OHIO, July 9th 1813 On Lake Erie

Har. Pa. 103-108

DR. SIR:

The absence of the Lt. Cols. and 2nd Major and the indisposition of Major [Duval] Payne prevents me from waiting upon you personally in consequence of the favor I have just received from you. You have the evidence of the resolution and willingness of the Mo. Regt. to do their duty and what is here to be said is predicated upon the situation of the Mo. Regiment. I have been afraid to distress the officers and men of this Regt. with a communication of the contents of yours, untill I can again hear from you; after faithfully stating facts which cannot be entirely known to you much less could the President know them on the 9th June when he gave an order to the War Dept. to direct the march of this Regt. to Kaskaskias. I put wholly out of the question the desire of the men to serve under you personally and the anxiety of assisting in retaking our lost territory and seeing Malden fall. These desires and anxieties, however to be indulged among friends in social life, must not be mentioned against a military order.

Inability to comply with the order to any advantage to the Country or to the honor of the Corps is alone taken as the ground for a wish to remain on this station—the difficulty does not exist in your mind, as you express a regret of the necessity of a separation from your command. the order of the President alone will create the doubt, if any, what course ought to be pursued. I only in my turn regret that I had not the speed of an arrow to give him the statement I am now making out for you. That great and good man would not hesitate one second to comply with my reasonable wishes With the opportunity now offered of feeding our horses on grain and good grass ten days is the earliest possible period that the Regiment could take up the line of march to any distant point or attempt with any advantage a forced march a shorter distance. After which, commencing the march, say to Kaskaskias at least 400 miles or more the route we should have to go, the Regt. could not average more than 15 miles per day, leaving out the necessity that would occasionally occur to pre-

vent marching every day. Say 30 days to travel to Kaskaskias It would then require at least 15 or 20 days upon grain and forage to fit our horses for active service upon the frontiers, or into the enemies country. The Regt. would then have been in service 110 days 50 days having elapsed leaving 20 days to complete the term of service for which they engaged, unless some extraordinary occurrences should make it indispensible to remain longer. But this is not all; under these circumstances we should not get to Kaskaskia more than 400 horses, more especially if I leave behind Capt. [Duval] Payne's Company which I am disposed and willing to do if left to me. This Sir, is a Regt. for which I stand pledged in the hour of peril, will be destroyed and rendered totally useless to their beloved country, to say nothing of the prospects which now opens to them in this quarter of usefulness of glory and honor. But this is not the only contrast. By remaining at Huron ten or 15 days feeding our Horses on grain and guarding the important frontier by scouting parties daily with an opportunity of feeding our Horses one or two days at Lower Sandusky on grain on our returning the same opportunity of five days at Camp Meigs and the grain is all purchased and the Mounted Regt. can transport it to those places then and in that case I can carry to Raison, Brownstown, Detroit, Malden and its vicinity under forced marching or otherwise between 800 and 900 effective men. So effective that they shall on all occasions drive superior numbers of the enemy. In this situation if our horses should fail we can again give them rest while we act as Infantry corps or should we be dismissed having performed our duty and tour our horses could be driven to 10 or 15 miles a day homewards without loss to indigent and patriotic men or the public at this moment, in lost and disabled horses. I have more than 100 dismounted. Arrangements have been made by new purchases &c. to keep up the strength of the Regt. leaving a few men to search for lost Horses at different points and to take care of the Invalid horses, which can be saved alone by this plan. Strange as this may appear I have in nothing exagerated. If the officers collect should be called upon, a statement more unfavourable would be given. In the revolving seasons of 20 years perhaps no spring and summer could have been so unfavourable

for the horses of a Mo. Regt., notwithstanding which we avoided no duty; Indeed we think we have done much in frustrating the savages in their designs against any part of our extensive frontier. To Fort Wayne from the point of our rendezvous 300 miles. Our Circuit to Lake Michigan about 200 miles, making 500. To Camp Meigs from Fort Wayne 100 making 600 miles. To River Raison and back 60 miles to this place 70 miles making total of at least 730 miles and this is the 50th day since we took up our line of march; and leaving at these different points parts of the Regt. to guard and act as reconnoitring parties to be concentrated when ordered. Altho it would be improper for one in my situation to say anything that would seem to insinuate that any order from a superior might be superceded without injurious consequences still it is not improper to express some consolation in a Belief from recent circumstances and information that no great body of Indians are embodied upon the Frontiers of Indiana and Illinois &c. but that they still remain in the circle of Brownstown, Malden &c. except those who have scattered off into small parties from disaffection to the cause of G. Britain and I may also add that before this Regiment could reach Kaskaskias I hope the people there will be rendered still more secure by your movements and success here. If the Regt. had been destined to Kaskaskias in the first Instance, no service would have been more acceptable, except a wish to be attached to this part of the N. W. Army. But no hesitation would have been manifested. But imperious circumstances, made it highly important that we should take the route to Fort Wayne, then to this place and such is the situation of the Regt. at present as represented. I hope you will concur with me in seeing the evident propriety and equally evident necessity of our remaining on this station where the Regiment can be of some service to the sacred cause in which we are all engaged upon this statment Dear General I wish you to detain us on this station, and send this as a part of the Reasons why you have done so or leave to me the entire responsibility of remaining or of marching to Kaskaskias under existing circumstances, not known to the President when he gave the order. If one or the other should not be in your power, I shall look back with little pleasure

to the day the Regiment was ordered to take up arms to defend the rights and honor of the U. States, as their usefulness from this time must be destroyed when the brightest prospects opened to their view.

Your friend and servt.

R. M. JOHNSON *Col. K. M. V.*

Genl. WM. H. HARRISON

N. B. I wish to have a personal interview if necessary.

A True Copy

JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 73)

Head Quarters CLEAVELAND 12th July 1813

Har. Pa. 108-110

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter from Col. [R. M.] Johnson [July 9 above] from the tenor of this letter and the information I have received from other sources I am inclined to believe that the Col. will find it difficult to enforce obedience to the order for marching to the Illinois Territory. I have directed him to proceed with all whose horses are fit for service and leave the rest to follow.

By a private letter to a Gentleman here from his friend in Erie received last night we are informed that our vessels are nearly ready to sail, but the Hands to man them have not arrived, and that the probability is that they will not have their compliment before the first of August. I hope and believe however that the writer is mistaken. I wait with anxiety for private information from Capt. Perry. I beg leave to recommend that the vessels be fully manned. The expense of an extra number of seamen will be trifling because they can be dismissed as soon as our command of the Lakes is secured. Indeed it appears to me that a consideration of this kind ought to govern on all our preparations for the reduction of Malden. A single well supported effort will be sufficient. That place once in our possession and the naval superiority acquired, Mackinac and St. Josephs will fall of course, and with them every vestage of Indian war will vanish. A fourth part of the force necessary for the conquest will be sufficient to hold

these posts when they are in our possession. The balance can be disbanded or employed elsewhere.

I hope that Capt. [James R.] Butler may have forewarded before this a general monthly return; he was directed to do so without sending it to me to avoid delay.

With great respect and consideration I have the honor to be Sir your humble Servant

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 14, 1813

Historical Register III, 86

Orders have been sent to captain Perry to communicate to you the naval movements and to concert with you the necessary co-operations.

Of the militia, you are authorized to take what in your judgment will be necessary. Such of the Kentucky militia as are in service would be better than a new draft. There is (of the Pennsylvania militia) one regiment at Erie armed, equipped, etc. These are subjected to your command. [Extract]

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT July 14th 1813

Har. Pa. 78

SIR

I regret that the Letter ordering Col. [R. M.] Johnson Westward ever reached you. Since the date of that letter, information has been received that the whole story of Dixon and his intention of attacking St. Louis etc. with which Governor Edwards so often alarmed himself and others was without foundation. Believing that the Colonel's expedition toward Brownstown would have put him out of the reach of this order and knowing that your opinion resembled my own in relation to the western combinations of Scioux and Foxes &c. &c. I had hoped that the want of foundation in the story would have reached you before the Colonel's return, and furnished a reason for delaying the execution of the order. Is it too late yet to correct this error? If it be possible it ought to be

done. Johnson's Regiment would be useful in making demonstrations by land while you go by water for protecting the frontier against small desultory attacks.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO MAJOR J. S. SWEARINGEN

WAR DEPARTMENT July 14th 1813

Har. Pa. 79

SIR:

You will forward to lower Sandusky by the way of Cleveland to the order of General Harrison two of the large Regimental Medicine chests which have been deposited at Pittsburg and hospital stores conformably to the inclosed invoice.

Major J[AMES] S[TRODE] SWEARINGEN *D. Q. M. Gr.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT July 14, 1813

Har. Pa. 80

SIR

The medicines in deposit at Pittsburgh are put up in chests, some of which are very large. One of these or two at most would be quite sufficient for the intended service of the hospital. The quarter master will have orders to forward them and a quantity of hospital stores. During your last campaign a double allowance [not completed]

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO GOVERNOR SHELBY

Head Quarters L SANDUSKY 20th July 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 26

MY DEAR SIR

I have this moment received a letter from the Secretary of war in which he authorizes me to call from the neighboring states such numbers of militia as I may deem requisite for the ensuing operation against upper canada. It was originally intended that the Army should consist of regular troops only, but it is now ascertained that the contemplated number cannot be raised. It is indeed late very late to call out militia but still it will be better to do this than enter into operation upon

which so much depends with an inadequate force. I am not uninformed of the present indisposition to the service which begins to prevail in Kentucky and the difficulties which your Excellency, may have to encounter to organize another detachment of militia I believe however it will not be impossible for you to reanimate your patriotic fellow citizens and once more to bring a portion of them to the field, what that portion will be, your own Judgment must determine. I have sent Major [David] Trimble my aid de camp to you to inform you of many circumstances which I have not time nor indeed would I like to commit to paper—send me as many good men as you can conveniently collect or as you may deem proper to call out not less than *four hundred* nor more than *two thousand*. The period has arrived when with a little exertion the task assigned to this section of the union may be finished, and complete tranquility restored to our frontiers. To make this last effort why not, my dear sir, come in person, you would not object to a command that would be nominal only—I have such confidence in your wisdom that you in fact should "be the guiding Head and I the hand." The situation you would be placed in is not without its parallel. Scipio the conqueror of Carthage did not disdain to act as a Lieutenant of his younger and less experienced brother Lucius. I refer you to Major Trimble who is instructed to communicate many particulars to you.

With regard and respect

I am Dr Sir

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency Govr. ISAAC SHELBY
Frankfort (Ky)

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS July 22nd 1813

Har. Pa. 119

DEAR GENL:

We have no certain inteligence as to the number of the enemy. From appearance we expect their number of regular troops and militia to exceed 2000 of the number of Indians we have no criterion to judge except that of their former forces.

They have not yet opened their Batteries upon us—but we

hourly expect it and are fully prepared to meet them in any manner they may make the attack.

Our troops are in high spirits and most woefully will the enemy be deceived in their anticipations of conquest.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest esteem and respect your obt. servt.

(Signed) GREEN CLAY

Major Genl. HARRISON

A True Copy

JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 74)

Head Quarters LOWER SANDUSKY 23rd July 1813

Har. Pa. 112-115

SIR:

Fort Meigs is actually invested by the enemy an express arrived here last evening with the information. The British and Indians appeared to be in considerable force. They were not discovered untill the morning of the 21st when they fired upon a party that was leaving the Fort and killed 6. The express says that the British were erecting batteries on the opposite bank and the Indians occupying the wood around the Fort from whence they kept up through the day a warm fire on the Fort doing however no injury. The post is in every respect in a better situation for defence than it was when besieged before, it has Col. [William P.] Anderson Col. [Edmund Pendleton] Gains and 300 picked men of the 24th Regt. They have 76 or 80 18lb. shot less than at the commencement of the former attack but more than double the number of 12lb. shot and 5 p. inch shells 6lb shot and case and grape in abundance the latter of every size together with 270 24lb. shot which suits the calibre of our Howitzers and serve well for Racochet firing.

I have with me here about 300 effective Regulars and a few worthless militia whom I was upon the point of discharging. I shall leave Major [George] Croghan here with a sufficient Garrison and with the ballance take a position at the old Seneca Town nine miles higher up the River on the road to Upper Sandusky. the distance from that place to Fort Meigs is precisely the same as from here, and from thence or further

on towards Upper Sandusky will be the only route to approach Fort Meigs with a probability of reaching it undiscovered. A swamp of 30 miles intervenes to which there is nothing to be compared even in this generally swampy country. It is at this moment nearly half leg deep in mud and water throughout. Three hundred and forty or fifty men of the 27th Regt. are between this place and Upper Sandusky—Col. [Thomas Deye] Owings with 500 of the 28th Regt. must be near to Franklinton. I have sent after Col. [R. M.] Johnson, he may be overtaken at Urbanna but the greater part of his men will have scattered and gone off to Ky. after fresh horses. The prospect of assembling a sufficient force to raise the siege in a short time is gloomy. However doubt not, I pray you, of my utmost exertions. You will have heard of the Blockade of Erie could the fleet but get out and be able to drive off that of the enemy Malden might fall and the return of Proctor intercepted. He has with him Gun Boats and small crafts only. I could engage to succeed with the few Troops I have in any enterprize rather than the defeating four times their number of Indians in the Black Swamp. It is not the least of my embarrassments to know what to do with the Sandusky Indians. 60 of these are now here to offer their services. The professions of the greater part are I fear hollow and made under the belief of the prosperous state of our affairs. The least disaster will I fear discover that their Hearts are not with us. The Shawanese have lately given a striking proof of their fidelity which I have not now time to explain. A few of the Delawares are our friends one of them put to death a few days ago, an Indian of the name of Blue Jacket who was coming here to assassinate me and then escape to the enemy.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Yr. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 75)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS 9 miles from L. SANDUSKY
24th July 1813

Har. Pa. 116-118

SIR:

Mr. [William] Oliver, who set out from Fort Meigs in the

night between the 21st and 22nd a few hours after the express messenger mentioned in my last, met me yesterday morning on the march to this place and last evening the enclosed letter [July 22 above] From Genl. [Green] Clay was brought to me by a Sergeant who left the Fort at 11 o'clock the preceding night. An intelligent young gentleman a private in the Petersburgh volunteers, accompanied the sergeant. From all of these persons I have received the satisfactory information that the Health of the Troops at Fort Meigs was most wonderfully restored before the appearance of the enemy. That the lines are well manned and the whole of [Col. William P.] Anderson's Regiment (300 choice men) left as a disposable force when the Sergeant left the garrison it was not ascertained that the enemy had erected or were erecting any Batteries. The cannonading was continued at intervals through the whole of yesterday and as I had supposed untill 11 o'clock last night but one of my parties, who were last night at Portage River are of opinion that what we heard here was thunder, not a gun has been heard today. I have two parties of Indians, accompanied each by a person whom I can depend upon now out for the purpose of approaching the Fort as near as possible and taking a prisoner. If the object of the enemy is the attacking of Fort Winchester and Wayne I have not the means of preventing their success, but their safe retreat will be more jeopardised than Genl. [Henry] Proctor will (as I would suppose) be willing to risk for the object to be gained by taking them. His appearing before Fort Meigs may have been intended to draw our attention and forces to that quarter whilst his real object is to attack Lower Sandusky or Cleaveland, he former place is untenable there is nothing in it of any value but two hundred barrels of Flour and I have made arrangements for withdrawing the garrison and leaving the Fort. Another project of Genl. Proctors may be to draw me into the Black Swamp and overwhelm me with his Indians. Upon the whole I have little apprehension for the safety of Fort Meigs. Nothing, however, shall be neglected to ascertain its security. Should it appear to be in danger before I am enabled to collect a sufficient force to meet the enemy in the field I will endeavour to break through them with two or three hundred picked men.

Major [Levi] Hukill is endeavoring to prepare for a com-

plete muster and Inspection of the army at the close of the month, should our situation allow it. The Task is not an easy one from the neglect, inexperience and ignorance of many of the officers. Should the President think proper to allow me an Inspector Genl. I could wish that Major Hukill could receive the appointment, and Capt. [James R.] Butler that of Assistant. I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir Your Obt. servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq.

COL. WM. RUSSEL TO GOVERNOR THOMAS POSEY

VINCENNES, July 25, 1813

Niles' Register V 9

SIR:

I have completed my intended scout, and reached every point of destination, and arrived at this place in four weeks. On our route we had much rainy weather and consequently high waters, which destroyed much of our provisions, and made the route much more disagreeable than otherwise it would have been. The route from this place until we returned amounts to upwards of 500 miles, the greater part of which is certainly equal (if not superior) to any tracts of country upon the western waters; all of which lies in your territory. We proceeded from Vallonia to the Delaware towns, from thence to the Mississinawa towns, there we found four or five distinct villages; one pretty strongly fortified, adjoining which a very considerable encampment of Indians had been kept up, all of which we destroyed. We supposed the Indians had evacuated those towns very early in the spring. From thence we proceeded down the Wabash to Eel river town, from thence to Winemack village, from thence to the Prophet's town, from thence we re-crossed the Wabash, and took the Winebagoe town in our route to Fort Harrison. We went to every place where we could expect to fall in with the enemy (that our situation would justify) as our provisions were then very short and our horses much fatigued.

I had a part of six companies of rangers and a few volunteers from the territory, and was joined by one hundred volunteers of Kentucky—when I found our force was 573 effective men. The army marched in five distinct columns, with

instructions how the front the rear and the flanks were to act in case of an attack on either. The right flank was commanded by general Cox of the Kentucky volunteers the extreme left was commanded by Col. [Robert] Evans, of the Indiana territory the other column on the right was commanded by general Thomas of the Kentucky volunteers, the other column on the left commanded by col. [Walter] Wilson of this territory, and the centre by maj. Z. Taylor of the U. S. army; all those officers discovered so much zeal for the success of the expedition, as convinced me they would have done themselves credit had we encountered the enemy. Col. [Joseph] Bartholomew acted as my aid-de-camp; this veteran has been so well tried in this kind of warfare, that any encomiums from me would be useless. major John Allen from Kentucky, acted as quarter-master, Mr. Hancock Taylor, as quartermaster sergt. maj. Harden acted as adjutant, and Homer Johnson [Knox Co.] of the rangers as his assistant. All those gentlemen acted with such promptitude as gave me but little trouble, and that only to check their zeal on certain occasions. gen. Clever of Kentucky, commanded the advanced party, and acquitted himself much to my satisfaction. I find also in the Kentucky corps several professional and other characters of high standing—which are deserving of their country; from the zeal of the officers and privates I entertain great hopes that they will render considerable service to their country. The volunteers from the territory were principally men of experience in Indian warfare, consequently capable of rendering services.

Messrs. [Joseph] Barron and [Pierre] Laplant, your Indian interpreters, accompanied us as guides, assisted by lieut. [Hyacinthe] Lasselle, who were always on the alert, and discharged the duties assigned them with great promptitude.

Such was the disposition of the army, and happy should I have been could they have had an opportunity of realizing the high expectations I entertained of them.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servant.

WILLIAM RUSSELL

P. S. Col. Bartholomew and lieut. [Joseph] Shields (of captain Peyton's company of rangers) volunteered and crossed through the country from below the Prophet's town

to the Ohio, in two places; from this you will discover, that the country has been completely chequered in all directions—and strange to tell, saw no fresh sign of Indians.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Head Quarters Lower Sandusky 25th July 1813

Har. Pa. 111

Sir:

Lieut. [David] Gwynne late paymaster of the 19th Regiment having expressed a great anxiety to have his accounts settled I have directed him to repair to Washington for that purpose. I have before mentioned this young officer to you, for gallantry honour and correctness of conduct he is not excelled by any officer in the service.

I have the honor to be with high Respect Sir Your Humble Svt

Willm. Henry Harrison

The Honble Genl. John Armstrong *Secretary of War*

Green Clay to Harrison

Camp Meigs July 26th 1813

Har. Pa. 120, 121

Dear Genl.

We are still surrounded by the enemy. They have not as yet opened their artillery upon us.

Their principal force remained at the old garrison and near their former encampment from the 20th until the 23rd when I sent a corps of observation from the garrison and I reconnoitred around and within view.

This movement was observed by the enemy and a considerable number of their forces crossed the River and were in a few minutes around us firing small arms which done no injury.

On the 24th their whole forces crossed over to this side where they remained encamped but in what particular position we have not yet ascertained.

Their vessels are sometimes in view crossing and recrossing below.

This evening they gave us a sham battle amongst themselves along the trace and nearly in view; no doubt to decoy us out. Our Troops paraded to make the Battle a real one. The move-

ments of the enemy are somewhat misterious. Experience has already proven to them that any attempt on this post would be vain make it when and in what way they will and most woefully will they repent their temerity. Our troops are in fine health and spirits and anxiously await another opportunity to distinguish themselves.

I have the honor to be with the highest esteem your Ob. Svt.

(Signed) GREEN CLAY

Major Genl. WILLIAM H. HARRISON *Comg. the N. W. Army*

(A true copy) J. O'FALLON *A. D. C.*

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS July 28, 1813

Har. Pa. 125, 126

DEAR GENL.

The enemy occupied their encampment on this side of the river below us until this morning. When with great precipitation they set sail from the first bend below. They were in full view and displayed two schooners and about one hundred and fifty sail. Small craft apparently all filled with men.

The Indians have been rapidly going down on the opposite shore nearly all day. They were principally mounted and about 400 in number.

It was said by an officer that about 20 cannon shot from the Lake was heard just before their departure.

Whether they have actually abandoned all idea of attacking this post, or what are their views I can form no conjecture.

So far from lulling us into security their recent movement has increased (if possible) our vigilance.

The troops here continue in good health and spirits and never did soldiers more vigilantly watch or anxiously wait the approach of any enemy. Several of the officers who were here during the former siege deem the number of the enemy considerably greater now than was brought against you.

Be assured Sir whatever may be their designs they never will subdue this post with even double the numbers they have this day presented to our view. I have the honor to be with the highest Sentiments of Respect & Esteem Your Obt. Sevt.

GREEN CLAY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 76)

Head Quarters SENACA TOWNS 9 miles above LOWER SANDUSKY 28th July 1813

Har. Pa. 122-124

SIR:

Capt. McCune of the Ohio Militia whom I sent from this place on the 25th to endeavour to penetrate to Fort Meigs returned last evening with the enclosed letter from Gen. [Green] Clay. [see July 28, above] Capt. McCune gives me such an account of the state of the works and garrison as to leave no room for apprehension for its safety unless indeed they should be weak enough to suffer themselves to be decoyed into the woods by the strategems of the enemy. It was extremely fortunate that Capt. McCune got into the Fort on the morning of the 26th as it is more than probable that a sally in force would have been made for the assistance of their supposed friends. I am under apprehensions for Fort Winchester. I have not yet heard from the Officer whom I sent to watch the movements of the enemy in that direction.

Since I had the Honor to address you I have been joined by Colo. [George] Paull with 350 effectives of the 27th reg. and 150 Dragoons under Lt. Col. [James V.] Ball. unfortunately ten of the officers of the former Regiment and nearly one third of the men are prisoners of war; of the two companies of the 26th that I have with me Capt. [William Henry] Puthuff (an officer that would do honor to any service) one of his subalterns and more than one third of the Company are in the same situation. Col. [Thomas D.] Owings with his Regt. left Franklinton on the 25th, one would suppose that our officers had learned their tactics from the maxims of Augustus and that the *Speu de Bradoes* [make haste slowly] of which he was so fond, governed them in all their movements. A very large body of the enemy's Indians are mounted fearing that by a rapid march they might turn my left and reach Upper Sandusky I have directed Col. Owings to strengthen the garrison with 50 men. I keep the country to the westward as far as Hulls road well reconnoitred. The Indians cannot take Sandusky and if the British should attempt it they shall have reason to repent it. I hear nothing since my last from Capt. [Oliver H.] Perry. I cannot make a

selection of Sergeants or Ensigns untill the communication with Fort Meigs is opened—in the mean time permit me to recommend Lieut. Major James McQuire of the 19th Infy.

There are several of this grade that will bear promotion and more amongst the Volunteers. Shall I have the privilege of appointing some of these *pro tem pore?* It is much to be regretted that Capt. Jas. Butler who commands the Pittsburgh Blues had not made known his wishes for an appointment in the Regular Service earlier. He is the son of the late Genl. Richard Butler. The British Army has not a more accomplished Capt. should there be an original vacancy of Major or Capt. or even of Col. the public interests would be served by giving it to him. Why not in the 26th and endeavour to fill it up in the upper part of Pennsylvania.

With great respect I have the Honor to be Sir your Hubl. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO CROGHAN

July 29, .1813

McAfee, *History, 322*

SIR:

Immediately on receiving this letter, you will abandon fort Stephenson, set fire to it, and repair with your command this night to head quarters. Cross the river and come up on the opposite side. If you should deem and find it impracticable to make good your march to this place, take the road to Huron and pursue it with the utmost circumspection and despatch.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT July 29th 1813

Har. Pa. 81

SIR:

Herewith inclosed you will receive a communication from the Executive of Kentucky transmitted through their delegation in Congress.

The subject has been before you and you will please to direct a settlement of all the just claims of the militia for retained rations, and authorize the proper agent to draw on this Dept. for such expenditures. Where abstracts were fur-

nished to the Contractor for such retained rations the amount due the troops is chargeable to him, an account of which should be immediately transmitted to this Department.

Major General HARRISON, Cleveland

CROGHAN TO HARRISON

July 30, 1813

McAfee, *History, 323*

SIR:

I have just received yours of yesterday, 10 o'clock P. M. ordering me to destroy this place and make good my retreat, which was received too late to be carried into execution. We have determined to maintain this place, and by heavens we can.

HARRISON TO CROGHAN

July 30, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison, 402-3*

SIR:

The General has just received your letter of this date, informing him that you had thought proper to disobey the order issued from this office, and delivered to you this morning. It appears that the information which dictated the order was incorrect; and as you did not receive it in the night, as was expected, it might have been proper that you should have reported the circumstance and your situation, before you proceeded to its execution. This might have been passed over, but I am directed to say to you, that an officer who presumes to aver, that he has made his resolution, and that he will act in direct opposition to the orders of his General, can no longer be entrusted with a separate command. Colonel [Samuel] Wells is sent to relieve you. You will deliver the command to him, and repair with colonel [James V.] Ball's squadron to this place. By command, etc.

A. H. HOMES, *Asst. Adj. General*

SHELBY TO COLONELS A TO Z KY. MILITIA

FRANKFORT, July 31st, 1813

McAfee, *History, 336*

DEAR SIR:

The following address to the militia of Kentucky will in-

form you of the call that has been made upon the governor of Kentucky for a reinforcement to the northwestern army; and of my views as to the mode of complying with it. I forward one to you particularly, sir, under the hope that you will exert your influence to bring into the field all the men in your power. Be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and apprize me of the calculations which I may make of the number of men that can be raised in your county and whether it will suit your convenience to go with us. I shall at all times take a pleasure in acknowledging the public spirit by which you will be actuated and the obligations you will lay me under.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, Your obt. servant, ISAAC SHELBY

SHELBY TO MILITIA

FRANKFORT, July 31st, 1813

McAfee, *History*, 337

FELLOW SOLDIERS:

Your government has taken measures to act effectually against the enemy in Upper Canada. General Harrison, under the authority of the president of the United States, has called upon me for a strong body of troops to assist in effecting the grand objects of the campaign. The enemy in hopes to find us unprepared, has again invested fort Meigs; but he will again be mistaken; and before you can take the field he will be driven from that post.

To comply with the requisition of general Harrison, a draft might be enforced; but believing as I do, that the ardor and patriotism of my countrymen has not abated, and that they have waited with impatience a fair opportunity of avenging the blood of their butchered friends, I have appointed the 31st day of August, next, at Newport, for a general rendezvous of Kentucky Volunteers. I will meet you there in person. I will lead you to the field of the battle, and share with you the dangers and honors of the campaign. Our services will not be required more than sixty days after we reach headquarters.

I invite all officers, and others possessing influence, to come forward with what mounted men they can raise; each shall command the men he may bring into the field. The superior officers will be appointed by myself at the place of general

rendezvous, or on our arrival at headquarters: and I shall take pleasure in acknowledging to my country the merits and public spirit of those who may be useful in collecting a force for the present emergency.

Those who have good rifles, and know how to use them, will bring them along. Those who have not, will be furnished with muskets at Newport.

FELLOW CITIZEN! Now is the time to act; and by one decisive blow, put an end to the contest in that quarter.

ISAAC SHELBY

SHELBY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

FRANKFORT, August 1, 1813

Historical Register III, 94

SIR:

A few days ago I was honoured with a letter from general Harrison under date of the 20th ultimo, [see above] by his aid-de-camp [Col. Allen] Trimble. In it he says, that "he had just received a letter from the secretary at war authorizing him to call from the neighbouring states such numbers of militia as he might deem requisite for the ensuing operations against Upper Canada." In pursuance of that power, he has made a requisition on the government of Kentucky for reinforcements, and has referred me to Major Trimble for information, etc. and has in warm terms solicited my taking the field in person. Much delay would have been the inevitable consequence of ordering out the militia as infantry in the ordinary mode, by draft. As mounted volunteers, a competent force can, I feel confident, be easily raised. I have therefore appointed the 31st of this month, at Newport, in this state, for a general rendezvous of mounted volunteers.

I have the honour of inclosing for the information of the president a copy of my address [see above] to the militia of this state on the occasion.

The prospect of acting efficiently against Upper Canada will, I have no doubt, call forth a large force to our standard, and they will be immediately marched to the head-quarters of the north-western army, in such bodies as will best facilitate their movements; when there they can act as foot or mounted, as circumstances may require.

I shall take great pleasure to hear from the president on

this subject previous to my departure from this place, and I request the favour of you to lay this letter immediately before him for his consideration, and that you will be pleased to apprise me of the result by the earliest conveyance.

I have the honour to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant, ISAAC SHELBY

The honourable the Secretary of War

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 77)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS
9 miles above L. SANDUSKY 1st Aug. 1813

Har. Pa. 127-129

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you a letter received the evening before the last from Genl. [Green] Clay communicating the departure of the enemy from before Fort Meigs. [see July 28 above] I have not yet been able to ascertain whether the British Troops and the main body of their allies have returned to Malden, or whether they still hover on the southern shore of the Lake, with a design to attempt some other enterprise. Since the morning of the 29th the latter have so swarmed in the woods around us as to leave me for sometime little doubt of an intended attack upon Lower Sandusky or this place and I suppose that the British were coming up the Sandusky Bay and River. The parties which I have sent to the Lake have not yet returned. As the wind has been favourable and the enemy were not near Sandusky this morning I conclude that they have sought their own shores. Should this be the case the advantage gained by them on this second invasion, in which there could not have been less than 5000 men employed amount to the surprise of a picket guard near to Fort Meigs by the Indians, and killing and taking six of the men, and wounding an Express and a boy of 14 years of age on the road to Sandusky. To ballance them I have the honor to inform you that Col. [James V.] Balls dragoons met with a party of Indians last evening near to Lower Sandusky and killed 11 out of the 12 of them. The Indians had formed an ambush and fired upon the advanced guard consisting of a Sergeant and five privates upon seeing the squadron pursued by Col. Ball and overtaken by the front squad of Capt. Hop-

kins Troops. The greater part of them were cut down by Col. Ball, Capt. [S. G.] Hopkins and his subalterns, whose horses being fleetest overtook them first. The loss on our side conists of two privates wounded one of them very slightly two horses killed and 0 [?] badly wounded.

I shall learn early tomorrow whether the enemy have gone down the lake or not. If they have I shall take the road to Cleaveland with the Dragoons and 200 mounted militia which I expect to join me tonight or tomorrow morning. Col. [Thomas D.] Owings has not yet arrived. I have been unceasingly employed in fortifying my position here to remedy in that way the weakness of my force.

I received letters from Erie last night of the 27th Inst. Capt. Perry was then *only* in want of *men* and *officers* to enable him to leave the harbor and attack the 4 vessels of the enemy then in sight.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir Yr. Humble Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

P. S. My fears for the safety of Fort Winchester were relieved by the return of Lt. [Benjamin W.] Sanders on the 29th inst. he crossed the Miami River above Fort Meigs and found no appearance of any number of the enemy having passed up in that direction.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 78)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS Aug. 1st 1813

Har. Pa. 130

SIR:

Since I had the honor of writing this morning to you, the party which I had sent to the Lake returned they saw some boats, three vessels with sails and a number of Indian canoes near to the mouth of the Sandusky Bay. They were unable to approach near enough to make any particular discoveries and had no glass. There can be no doubt however but the enemy are there in force.

Will you be so obliging as to order some small spy glasses

to be sent by the Express mail via Cleaveland for the use of the officers commanding Scouting parties.

I have the honor to be with Great Respect Yr. Obt. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT—August—2d—1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 125

DEAR SIR

Your favour of the 20 ult. by major [David] Trimble has been duly received since which a letter from General [Green] Clay has also come to hand stating that the combined force of British & Indians had invested Fort Meigs—I have considered a volunteer scheme as the course most likely to obtain the reinforcement which you request & have in consequence of that opinion appointed the 31st day of this present month, for a General rendezvous of mounted volunteers at New Port on the Ohio and propose to head them myself. In addition to this I have addressed a circular letter to most of the Field officers & other influential characters in this State to step forth on this occasion—I am yet not able to say what will be the result but I flatter myself that a sufficient number to meet your wishes will turn out and you may rest assured every energy which I possess shall be exerted the utmost to effect it. I need not observe to you how important it will be to have rations and forage laid in on the way it will be impossible to move on without the latter indeed a supply must be laid in in this State.—Men who travel from the southern parts of it will require both rations & forage at that place to enable them to proceed. I beg you may attend to this subject and let me know what is to be expected seeing that you cannot be reinforced in any other way the Government must not stickle at the trifling Expense of a little forage to obtain an efficient force for the main objects of the campaign. You shall be regularly informed of the progress I am making to reinforce you of the steps I deem necessary to effect it & hope they will meet your approbation & that of my country. no apology was necessary to invite me to your standard had I more age & much greater experience I would not hesitate to fight under

your banner for the honour & interest of my beloved country.

Accept my good sir assurances of most perfect esteem and regard and remain

Your obt. servant

ISAAC SHELBY

To Genl. HARRISON

GEORGE CROGHAN TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, Aug. 3, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 389

DEAR SIR;

The enemy made an attempt to storm us last evening, but was repulsed with the loss of at least 100 killed wounded and prisoners. One lieut. col. (lt. col. Short) a major and a lieutenant, with about 40 privates, are dead in our ditch. I have lost but one in killed, and but few wounded. Further statements will be made you by the bearer.

GEORGE CROGHAN, *major, commanding Fort Sandusky*

N. B. Since writing the above, two soldiers of the 41st regiment have got in, who state that the enemy have retreated. In fact, one of their gunboats is within three hundred yards of our works, said to be loaded with camp-equipage, &c. which they, in their hurry have left.

GEORGE CROGAN

JOHN JOHNSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

PIQUA, August 3, 1813

Niles' Register V, 7

The Delaware and Shawanoese Indians on this frontier have turned out about two hundred men who have marched to the relief of gen. Harrison. The Wyandots within our lines, the Senecas and Mingoes have also turned out their disposable force, about two hundred more. The whole intend to continue with the army during the campaign.

JNO. JOHNSTON, *Indian Agent*

WILLIAM RUSSELL TO POSEY

VINCENNES August 4, 1813

Niles' Register V, 10

On my return from the Mississinawa, I found the Indians

had got in small parties on this side of the Wabash, between this place and the mouth of White river. Those two rivers for some distance up, are skirted with prodigious swamps and brush, which afforded them a complete shelter, I despatched rangers in different directions in order to drive them out, the citizens also assembled and assisted to chequer the country—some of the Indians had got possession of some horses and were making off. They were pursued by capt. [Touissant] Dubois, and a party of men, who overtook them and recovered three horses, but did not get sight of an Indian. captain John Andre of the rangers volunteered his services to follow them, he went on with 16 or 18 rangers. He was also joined by captain Dubois and Mr. [Joseph] Barron your interpreter, together with a Potawatomy Indian that resides with Mr. Barron; they soon discovered a trail of horses making out from the settlement, which they pursued, and soon overtook a spy that was kept in the rear; they pushed on and dispatched him, which gave notice to those in front who left their horses and fled with great precipitation—and from the nature of the country could not be followed; they got from this party also 5 horses; the party returned on the 2d inst. Capt. Dubois and Mr. Barron are active men; captain Andre is also a very brave active and enterprising man. I hope this friendly Indian will in future prove serviceable, as I am told nothing can exceed his activity in the woods particularly on a trail.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Head-Quarters, Seneca Town, August 4, 1813

Historical Register, II, 251

Sir,

In my letter of the 1st instant, I did myself the honour to inform you that one of my scouting parties had just returned from the lake shore, and had discovered, the day before, the enemy in force near the mouth of the Sandusky bay. [see Aug. 1 above] The party had not passed Lower Sandusky two hours, before the advance, consisting of Indians, appeared before the fort, and in half an hour after a large detachment of British troops; and in the course of the night they commenced a cannonading against the fort with three six-pounders and two howitzers; the latter from gun-boats.

The firing was partially answered by major [George] Croghan, having a six-pounder, the only piece of artillery.

The fire of the enemy was continued at intervals, during the second instant, until about half after five, P. M., when finding that their cannon made little impression upon the works, and having discovered my position here, and apprehending an attack, an attempt was made to carry the place by storm. Their troops were formed in two columns; lieutenant-colonel Short headed the principal one, composed of the light and battalion companies of the 41st regiment.

This gallant officer conducted his men to the brink of the ditch, under the most galling and destructive fire from the garrison, and leaping into it was followed by a considerable part of his own and the light company; at this moment a masked port hole was suddenly opened, and a six-pounder with a half load of powder and double charge of leaden slugs, at the distance of 30 feet, poured destruction upon them and killed or wounded nearly every man who had entered the ditch. In vain did the British officers exert themselves to lead on the balance of the column; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot from the fort, and sought safety in the adjoining woods. The other column headed by the grenadiers had also retired, after having suffered from the muskets of our men, to an adjacent ravine. In the course of the night, the enemy, with the aid of their Indians, drew off the greater part of the wounded and dead, and embarking them in boats descended the river with the utmost precipitation. In the course of the 2d instant, having heard the cannonading, I made several attempts to ascertain the force and situation of the enemy; our scouts were unable to get near the fort, from the Indians which surrounded it. Finding however, that the enemy had only light artillery, and being well convinced that it could make little impression upon the works, and that any attempt to storm it would be resisted with effect, I waited for the arrival of 250 mounted volunteers, which on the evening before had left Upper Sandusky. But as soon as I was informed that the enemy were retreating, I set out with the dragoons to endeavour to overtake them, leaving generals [Duncan] M'Arthur and [Lewis] Cass to follow with all the infantry (about 700) that could be spared from the protection of the stores and sick at this place. I found it impossible

to come up with them. Upon my arrival at Sandusky, I was informed by the prisoners that the enemy's forces consisted of 490 regular troops, and 500 [Robert] Dixon's Indians, commanded by general [Henry] Proctor in person, and that Tecumseh, with about 2000 warriors, was somewhere in the swamps, between this and Fort Meigs, expecting my advancing, or that of a convoy of provisions.

As there was no prospect of doing any thing in front, and being apprehensive that Tecumseh might destroy the stores and small detachments in my rear, I sent orders to general Cass, who commanded the reserve, to fall back to this place, and to general M'Arthur with the front line to follow and support him. I remained at Sandusky until the parties that were sent out in every direction returned—not an enemy was to be seen.

I am sorry that I cannot transmit you major [George] Croghan's official report. He was to have sent it to me this morning, but I have just heard that he was so much exhausted by 36 hours of continued exertion as to be unable to make it. It will not be amongst the least of general proctor's mortifications to find that he has been baffled by a youth who has just passed his twenty-first year. He is, however a hero worthy of his gallant uncle (general George R. Clark).

Captain [James] Hunter, of the 17th regiment, the second in command, conducted himself with great propriety; and never were a set of finer young fellows than the subalterns, viz. lieutenants [Benjamin] Johnson and [Cyrus Alexander] Baylor of the 17th, [Joseph] Anthony of the 24th, [John] Meeks of the 7th, and ensigns [Edmund] Shipp and [Joseph] Duncan of the 17th.

The following account of the unworthy artifice and conduct of the enemy will excite your indignation. major Chambers was sent by general Proctor, accompanied by colonel Elliott, to demand the surrender of the fort. They were met by ensign Shipp. The major observed, that general Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of regular troops, and so many Indians whom it was impossible to controul; and if the fort was taken, as it must be, the whole of the garrison would be massacred. Mr. Shipp, answered, that it was the determination of major Croghan, his officers and men, to defend the garrison or be buried in it; and that they might do their best.

Colonel Elliott then addressed Mr. Shipp, and said, "you are a fine young man; I pity your situation; for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter that must follow resistance." Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him. Elliott pretended to exert himself to release him, and expressed great anxiety to get him safe in the fort.

I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the first note received from major Croghan. It was written before day; and it has since been ascertained, that of the enemy there remained in the ditch one lieutenant-colonel one lieutenant and 25 privates: the number of prisoners, one serjeant and 25 privates: 14 of them badly wounded: every care has been taken of the latter, and the officers buried with the honours due to their rank and bravery. All the dead that were not in the ditch, were taken off in the night by the Indians. It is impossible, from the circumstances of the attack, that they should have lost less than 100. Some of the prisoners think that it amounted to 200. A young gentelman, a private in the Petersburg volunteers, of the name of Brown, assisted by five or six of that company, and of the Pittsburg blues, who were accidentally in the fort, managed the six-pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy.

I have the honour to be &c.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

N. B. Of our few wounded men there is but one that will not be well in less than six days.

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT Aug 4th 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 133

To Genl. HARRISON,

DR SIR

Since I had the honour of addressing you last I have heard from several of the adjoining counties—The information received confirms the opinion I had entertained that the patriotism of this State had not diminished, and induces me to believe I shall on the day of rendezvous meet four or five thousand vollunteers and perhaps a much larger number this ren-

ders it highly important that supplies of provisions, forage, &c., &c., should be laid in with a liberal hand. I flatter myself that you will give the requisite orders on the subject & as soon as practicable. I am still of opinion that forage provision should be laid in at George town that the men may then draw what will last them untill they get to New Port; those from the southern part of the State cannot well move on without it—you will please let me hear from you as soon as practicable.

I have the honour to be very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head-Quarters, SENECA TOWN,
5th August, 1813—8 o'clock A. M.
Historical Register II, 254

I have the honour to enclose you major [George] Croghan's report of the attack upon his fort, which has this moment come to hand. Fortunately the mail has not closed.

With great respect, I have the honour to be, sir, your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON

CROGHAN TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, August 5, 1813
Historical Register II, 254

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that the combined forces of the enemy, amounting to at least 500 regulars and 700 or 800 Indians, under the immediate command of general [Henry] Proctor, made its appearance before this place early on Sunday evening last, and so soon as the general had made such disposition of his troops as would cut off my retreat, should I be disposed to make one, he sent colonel Elliott, accompanied by major Chambers, with a flag, to demand the surrender of the fort, as he was anxious to spare the effusion of blood, which he should probably not have in his power to do, should he be reduced to the necessity of taking the place by storm. My answer to the summons was, that I was deter-

mined to defend the place to the last extremity, and that no force, however large, should induce me to surrender it. So soon the flag had returned, a brisk fire was opened upon us from the gun-boats in the river, and from a 5½ inch howitzer on shore, which was kept up with little intermission throughout the night. At an early hour next morning, three sixes (which had been placed during the night within 250 yards of the pickets) began to play upon us with little effect. About four o'clock, P. M., discovering that the fire from all his guns was concentrated against the northwestern angle of the fort, I became confident that his object was to make a breach, and attempt to storm the works at that point, I therefore ordered out as many men as could be employed for the purpose of strengthening that part, which was so effectually secured by means of bags of flour, sand, etc. that the picketing suffered little or no injury; notwithstanding which the enemy, about 500, having formed in close column, advanced to assault our works at the expected point, at the same time making two feints on the front of captain [James] Hunter's lines. The column which advanced against the northwestern angle, consisting of about 350 men, was so completely enveloped in smoke, as not to be discovered until it had approached within 18 or 20 paces of the lines, but the men being all at their posts and ready to receive it, commenced so heavy and galling a fire as to throw the column a little into confusion; being quickly rallied, it advanced to the outer works, and began to leap into the ditch. Just at that moment a fire of grape was opened from our six-pounder (which had been previously arranged so as to rake in that direction) which, together with the musketry, threw them into such confusion that they were compelled to retire precipitately to the woods.

During the assault, which lasted about half an hour, an incessant fire was kept up by the enemy's artillery (which consisted of five sixes and a howitzer) but without effect. My whole loss during the siege, was one killed and seven wounded, slightly. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners, must exceed 150: one lieutenant-colonel, a lieutenant, and 50 rank and file were found in and about the ditch, dead or wounded. Those of the remainder who were not able to escape were taken off during the night by Indians. Seventy stand of arms, and several brace of pistols have been collected

near the works. About three in the morning the enemy sailed down the river, leaving behind them a boat, containing clothing and considerable military stores.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates under my command, for their gallantry and good conduct during the siege.

G. CROGHAN, *Major 17 United States Infantry*

Major General HARRISON, *commanding N. W. Army*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT August 5, 1813

Har. Pa. 82, 83

SIR:

The best interpretation of the late movements of the enemy in your quarter is that De Rottenburg has detached to the aid of [Henry] Proctor between four and five hundred men, and that with these he is attempting to save Malden by attacking fort Meigs. If this conjecture be well founded it suggests the true policy on our part provided our flotilla can get over the Bar. Go directly to Malden, and leave Mr. Proctor to amuse himself with fort Meigs. There is no objection to your appointing the Sergeants to other offices *pro tempre.* Captain [Robert] Butler has been appointed Major of the 32d Regiment and Lieut. [James] McGhee Captain in the 42nd.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Headquarters, UPPER SANDUSKY, Aug. 6, 1813

Niles' Register, IV, 420

DEAR SIR:

Your excellency's letter of the 4th inst. was delivered to me yesterday morning by colonel [Henry] Brush. The exertions which you have made, and the promptitude with which your orders have been obeyed to assemble the militia to repel the late invasion of the enemy, is truly astonishing, and reflects the highest honor on the state. Believing that in a formal interview I could best explain to you the intention of the government and my own views, I determined to come on to this place to see you. I have now the honor to repeat to you in

this way the result of my determination on the employment of the militia, and most of the facts upon which my determination is founded. It has been the intention of government to form the army destined for operations upon Lake Erie, exclusively of regular troops, if they could be raised; the number was limited to 7,000—the deficiency of regulars was to be made up from the militia. From all the information I at present possess, I am convinced that there will be a great deficiency in the contemplated number of troops, even after the militia now in service, and whose time of service will not expire immediately, have been added to the regulars. I have therefore called upon the governor of Kentucky for 2000 effective men; with those, there will still be a deficiency of perhaps 1,200 troops. Your excellency has stated to me, that the men who have turned out upon this occasion, have done it with the expectation that they would be effectually employed, and that should they be sent home, there is no prospect of getting them to turn out, should it be hereafter necessary. To employ them all is impossible; with my utmost exertions the embarkation cannot be effected in less than 15 or 18 days. Should I ever determine to substitute them for the regular troops which are expected; to keep so large a force in the field, even for a short period, would consume the means which are provided for the support of the campaign, and which are only collected for the number above stated. Under these circumstances, I would recommend a middle course to your excellency, viz. to dismiss all the militia but two regiments of 10 companies each, of 100 men and an usual proportion of field, plattoon and non-commissioned officers and musicians; that the corps be encamped at or near this place until it is ascertained whether their services will be wanted—a short time will determine the question. Permit me to request your excellency to give your countenance and support to the exertions which general [Duncan] M'Arthur will make to fill up the 26th regiment of 12 months troops.

It appears that the venerable governor of Kentucky is about to take command of the troops of the state. Could your excellency think proper to follow his example, I need not tell you how highly grateful it would be to, dear sir, your friend.

Wm. H. Harrison

Proctor to Harrison

Amherstburg, Aug. 7th, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 419

Sir:

The bearer, lieut. Le Breton in the service of his Britannic majesty, I send under a flag of truce, with surgical aid, of which you may not have a sufficiency, for the brave soldiers who were too severely wounded to come off, or who may have lost their way after the unsuccessful attack made on the 2d inst. on the fort at Sandusky.

Expecting every consideration from the brave soldier for a wounded enemy, I flatter myself that those prisoners in your possession, and who can be removed without injury, will be permitted to return here on my parole of honor, that they shall not serve until truly and regularly exchanged.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient and humble servant.

Henry Proctor

To the officer commanding the fort at Sandusky

Shelby to Harrison

Frankfort Aug 8th 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 138

Dear Sir

I wrote you about the 2nd inst., by major [Peter G.] Voris and by the mail about the 4th for I have not the copies by me since which I have received information from various quarters of the State that the volunteer scheme will succeed but it is impossible to speak with any kind of certainty at so early a stage of the business I flatter myself however that I shall be able to bring in the field from two to three thousand or upward. my present views are that all these men will ride to the margin of the Lake and if they cross over leave about one tenth man to bring the horses back some distance & herd them in the best range in partials until the campaign expires many of the volunteers that will compose this corps will be Gent. who will care less about emoluments than their own ease and convenience & must have their horses taken care of to ride home a great proportion of the volunteers will come from the So. western parts of the State who will have to travel

from two to three hundred miles before they arrive at the points of rendezvous many of them too will be poor men who will not be able to proceed unless forage & rations are both supplied—indeed I shall expect that forage will be directed to be furnished at Georgetown in this State—Horses will otherwise become so weak it will be impossible for them to proceed further. I must therefore my good sir beg your early and particular attention to the subject of forage from George Town onwards least from the want of it the whole scheme to reinforce you from this State shall prove abortive. I should suppose that the discretion confided to you by the department of war will justify you in taking this step, which in my opinion is all important & cannot be dispensed with, but at the hazard of defeating the whole enterprise.—Major [David] Trimble your aid de camp has stated that you would not Guarantee the pay of more than 2000 men but will accept the services of a much larger number, were I to make this public I am confident it would damp the ardor of volunteers—even Gentlemen of fortune (of whom there are many that will go in the ranks) could not with any confidence encourage their poorer neighbors to hazard their lives and loose their times for nothing it is at any rate a great sacrifice for a citizen of Kentucky to make for the mere pay of a common foot soldier for the service of himself & horse.—I hope you will reflect also on this subject and authorize the payment for all that go, at least for 4000 men should so many turn out. for I shall otherwise not be able to draw the distinction between those that will be entitled to receive pay and those that shall not if more than 2000 volunteers turn out. If the want of forage or any other trifling occurrence should disgust the volunteers and cause them to refuse to proceed on from George town or the Ohio, rest assured that there will be an end to the spirit of volunteering from Kentucky.—You were not mistaken as to the indisposition of the people here to turn out again and it is has taken great exertion to reanimate them hence the greater necessity in the Government doing them at least common Justice—it is not a matter of so much moment that the men should be paid instantly—but such a debt of gratitude should be acknowledged by the Government & paid when she has funds to do it. I must my dear sir, hear from you before I leave New Port and if possible before the men leave their

homes.—That every practicable difficulty may be removed & that the true standing of corps may be fairly understood.

I have the honour to be Most respectfully, Dear General
Your most obdt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

Major General WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

GENERAL ORDER

Head-quarters, Eighth Military District,
SENECA TOWNS, 9th August, 1813

Niles' Register, IV, 420

Complaints having been made of unfair practices by some of the recruiting officers, in the enlistments of men; the commanding general directs the superintendent of each recruiting district to give the most prompt attention to every allegation of the kind, and immediately discharge every person who may have been enlisted contrary to law and the instructions of the war department. It shall also be the duty of such superintendants to arrest and send on to head-quarters for trial, every officer who may have offended in this way and the general announces it his unalterable determination to punish with the utmost rigor, such as may be convicted. But, whilst he thus evinces his desire to preserve his fellow citizens from every species of military oppression; he hopes that the patriotic citizens will venture their efforts to shield the recruiting officers from the persecutions of certain vile miscreants, who, disgracing an honorable and liberal profession, and for a contemptible fee, are constantly endeavoring to deprive their country of the service of men, who have been fairly and legally engaged.

A True Copy
A. H. HOLMES, *Assist. Adj't Gen.*

HARRISON TO PROCTOR

Head-quarters, Eighth Military District of the
United States, August 10, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 419

SIR:

Your letter addressed to the officer commanding at Lower Sandusky, [see Aug. 7 above] was forwarded from thence to

me, and received this moment. Upon my arrival at Fort Sandusky on the morning of the 3d instant, I found that major [George] Croghan, conformable to those principles which are held sacred in the American army, had caused all the care to be taken of the wounded prisoners that his situation would permit. Having with me my hospital surgeon, he was particularly charged to attend to them, and I am warranted in the belief that every aid that surgical skill could give was afforded. They have been liberally furnished too with every article necessary in their situation which our hospital stores could supply.

Having referred to my government for orders respecting the disposition of the prisoners, I cannot with propriety comply with your request for an immediate exchange.

But I assure you, sir, that as far as it depends upon me, the course of treatment which has been commenced towards them, whilst in my possession, will be continued.

I have the honor to be, sir, your humble servant,

WM. H. HARRISON
Maj. Gen. commanding 8th U. S. District

To General PROCTOR

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT Aug 11th 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 151

DEAR SIR

I think it my duty to apprise you of every occurrence relative to the reinforcing you from Kentucky.

When my address of the 31st July to the militia of this State was first published (of which I inclose you a copy) [see July 31 above] the public spirit of this country as usual flared out & it was expected every where that five Thousand men & probably a much greater number of volunteers would turn out & go with me to reinforce you it being just such a tower as they had cried out for & often solicited me to attempt. But their ardour has greatly subsided & the inquiry from all points is what pay are we to receive, shall we get paid for our lost horses and is forage laid in on the way for them &c. I am greatly mortified at the present prospect, but shall continue to exert every power to get out as large a force

as possible. There is a much greater degree of public spirit on the North side of the Kentucky River than on the other. I have this day ordered a draft on the South side of Kentucky for 1500 men to be taken from the bounds in which the former 1500 men were drafted that were discharged in consequence of your letter to me of the 21st of April last. I hope that this step will produce that number from the southern side of the Kentucky, & that probably one thousand volunteers will turn out on the north side—I never have been so far disappointed in the patriotism of my countrymen before & am at a loss for what cause to attribute their backwardness all at once. The 1500 to be drafted are to rendezvous at George Town in this State on the tenth day of next month, and the necessary arrangements in the quartermaster line will be requisite for their advance.

I have admitted in the order for the draft that all who come forward & join the mounted volunteers from the south side of Kentucky, may be considered as a part of the quota required by the draft, & I flatter myself this proposition will induce many to come on from that quarter to the General rendezvous on the 31st inst., at Newport.

I beg leave to remind you once more of the importance of having forage laid in on the way.

I shall apprise you from time to time of the prospects which I have relative to my success in obtaining men, to the end that if they don't meet your expectation you can look to other sources for relief.

The mail is this moment closing & only affords me time to conclude with sincere wishes for your welfare & prosperity

And remain your obt friend &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

To Majr. Gen. WM. HENRY HARRISON,

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No.80)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS 11th August 1813

Har. Pa. 131-134

SIR:

Genl. [Henry] Proctor returned to Malden on the 6th or 7th and excepting a very few I believe that all his Indians have also retired some of their signs are occasionally seen, but

they have become so shy that they attempt no mischief. A party of our friendly Indians picked up near the Lake, 4 British Soldiers who had made their escape from the ditch at Fort Sandusky, but were unable to overtake their own army.

A British Lieutenant accompanied by a surgeon arrived at Sandusky yesterday morning with a Flag and letter from Genl. Proctor and were very improperly sent to me without any previous notice. I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of his letter and my answer. [see Aug. 7 and 10 above] The prisoners that are not wounded, 16 in number have been sent to Upper Sandusky. What disposition will you have made of them?

When the news of the invasion of this state was made known an immense number of militia was put in motion by Govr. Meigs and the different general officers. Having received a letter from Govr. Meigs informing me of his arrival at Upper Sandusky with the advanced detachments. I met him there on the 6th Inst and addressed a letter [see Aug. 6 above] to him advising him to dismiss all the militia excepting ten companies of one hundred each, who might be retained untill it could be ascertained whether the whole or any part would be wanted. Major [A. H.] Holmes has forwarded the Return of all the Troops excepting those at Fort Meigs. The Return from thence was received this morning and will be forwarded by the next mail, from this you will perceive that it will require at least 4000 militia to make up the compliment of 7000 destined for the expedition into Canada.

The Ohio Militia which were called into service last spring will all be discharged in ten days and there will remain only about 650 of the Kentucky Militia. I have required Govr. Shelby to furnish twenty companies of 100 men each. He is now raising them and will command them in person. They will come in on Horses and send them back.

Commodore Perry sailed from Erie on the 5th Inst. in pursuit of the enemy. I should have no apprehension for the issue of the conflict if he had a proper compliment of seamen and officers. They are he informs me greatly deficient and an eye witness writes that there is not more than half the proper number of good seamen. He has some volunteers from the Pensylvania Regt. of Militia at Erie. The rest have resolved "that they will come on to join this army as ordered provided they get two months pay beforehand".

Permit me to solicit your attention to the staff of this army. Major [Levi] Hukill and Major [A. H.] Holmes will not be able for a considerable time to reduce into order the chaos that reigns from the entire want of experience in the officers of the new Regiments. Col. [Edmund P.] Gaines who has lately been promoted to the Command of the 25th Regt. is here. He would make a most excellent Adjutant General and will serve in that capacity unless his regiment is full in which case he would prefer to join it.

My Aid de Camp Lieut. [John] O'Fallon is a 2nd Lieut. in the 1st Regt. permit me to request that he be transfered to the 24th Regt. with the same rank of that of 1st. Lieut. if the vacancies of that grade are not all taken up by the promotion of the Subalterns heretofore in that Regiment.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect Yr. Humbel Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 81

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS 12th Augt. 1813

Har. Pa. 135

SIR:

Major [Levi] Hukill has written to the Inspector Genl. for blank inspection Returns but he has received none. Will you be pleased to give directions for having them forwarded by the express mail. There is difficulty in getting these printed in this country.

The British Surgeon's Mate who came with the Flag acknowledges that they lost 91 killed and missing. He did not mention the number of wounded that has been taken off, but said that several had died before they got to the Lake. Major Muir one of their best officers was supposed to be mortally wounded.

I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir Yr. Humble Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO VOORHIES

Head Quarters, SENECA TOWN, August 18, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 653

SIR:

As you have reported yourself to me as the authorized agent of the contractor, I must request that you take immediate measures for having two hundred thousand rations of salted pork or bacon prepared at Cleveland, Sandusky, or some other place on the lake, to be used when the army shall arrive on the Canada shore. Should you think proper to supply the other component parts, and make the two hundred thousand complete rations, you are at liberty to do so. You have the flour at Cleveland, and as it will not be wanted there, it can be used for the above purpose; however, the pork must be procured at any rate.

I am, very respectfully, your humble servant

WILLIAM H. HARRISON

Maj. PETER G. VOORHIES Agt. for ORR and GREELY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 83)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWN August 22nd 1813

Har. Pa. 136-7

SIR:

I returned this day from a visit to Commodore Perry who is now with his fleet (10 sails) off the mouth of the Sandusky bay. He received an accession of officers and seamen before he left Erie but he is still very deficient in both in the number and quality of the latter. To remedy this defect as far as possible, I have furnished him with one hundred of my best men, including all the seamen that could be found in the companies here.

An order has also been forwarded to Fort Meigs to select all of the latter that are there and send them down to the Commodore at the mouth of the Miami bay.

The Commodore and myself have agreed upon the propriety of his proceeding immediately off Malden to brave the enemies' fleet, and if possible bring them to action before he shall be encumbered with our troops. I am affraid that they will not fight him at present, but his appearance before Malden will

have a great effect upon the Indians, between whom and their allies very serious disputes have arisen. Three Wyandot Indians, in whom I have entire confidence have been sent by their old chief the Crane upon my suggestion to widen the breach and endeavour to prevail upon them to return home and suffer the contest to be decided by the British and us alone.

I am exerting every nerve to complete my preparations for crossing the Lake as soon as I am reinforced by two thousand of the Kentucky militia. That number is indispensible from the sickly state of the regular troops, of whom I shall think myself fortunate to take with me two-fifths of the aggregate amount.

I shall do myself the honor to write to you more fully by the next mail.

I have the honor to be, Sir with great respect your humble Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esquire *Secretary at War*

AARON GREELY TO HARRISON

CAMP HARRISON, CLEVELAND, August 25, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 653

SIR:

I have taken the liberty to send you enclosed a correct statement of the component parts of rations at this time ready to be delivered in good order along the lake coast, on the navigable waters within this district; the principal part of which are at this place. All the component parts of the rations can be delivered almost exclusively at this post immediately, except the salted pork, which will fall short of the two hundred thousand rations about thirty thousand; this deficiency is not in the country, neither can it be procured in time at this season of the year. If you should think it proper to take salted beef in lieu of this deficiency, I have the barrels and salt on hand, and can deliver to you five hundred barrels prime beef, in good order, and warranted to keep good until the first of May next. Ten day's notice will be sufficient I have contracted for ten thousand pounds of bacon; the time in which it was to be delivered has expired since the 20th instant. I expect it every day, and am confident it will be here in time.

I have a number of bakers employed in baking biscuit, of which I can immediately furnish you with fifty thousand rations, warranted to keep good for one year. Colonel [B. G.] Orr's long stay in the city of Washington prevented my returning here before you left this to attend to your orders.

I experience a very serious difficulty for the want of stores for the provisions. Was Mr. Duncan Reed, the acting Deputy Quartermaster, more attentive to his business a few boards might be procured to cover those provisions which are now lying exposed to the storms on the lake shore, and the evil in a great degree be remedied. The regiment of Pennsylvania militia, under the command of Colonel Rees Hill, amounting to about six hundred and fifty men, will arive here on Sunday next. I shall ever endeavor at all times to obey you and comply with your requisitions, and exert myself for the good of the public service.

I am, with pleasure, respectfully your obedient humble servant,

AARON GREELY

His Excellency WM. H. HARRISON *Maj. Gen. Com. N. W. Army*

CROGHAN TO EDITOR OF LIBERTY HALL

LOWER SANDUSKY, August 27, 1813

Cincinnati *Liberty Hall, Sept. 14, 1813*

I have with much regret seen in some of the public prints, such misrepresentations respecting my refusal to evacuate this post, as are calculated not only to injure me in the estimation of military men, but also to excite unfavorable impressions as to the propriety of General Harrison's conduct relative to this affair.

His character as a military man is too well established to need my approbation or support. But his public services entitle him at least to common justice, this affair does not furnish cause of reproach. If public opinion has been lately misled respecting his late conduct, it will require but a moment's cool, dispassionate reflection, to convince them of its propriety. The measures recently adopted by him, so far from deserving censure, are the clearest proofs of his keen penetration and able Generalship. It is true that I did not proceed immediately to execute his order to evacuate this post; but this dis-

obedience was not, as some would wish to believe, the result of a fixed determination to maintain the post contrary to his most positive orders, as will appear from the following detail, which is given to explain my conduct.

About 10 o'clock on the morning of the 30th ultimo, a letter from the Adjutant General's office, dated Seneca Town, July 29, 1813, was handed me by Mr. [John] Conner, ordering me to abandon this post, burn it, and retreat that night to headquarters. On the reception of the order I called a council of officers, in which it was determined not to abandon the place, at least until the further pleasure of the General should be known, as it was thought an attempt to retreat in the open day, in the face of a superior force of the enemy would be more hazardous than to remain in the fort, under all its disadvantages. I therefore wrote a letter to the General, couched in such terms as I thought were calculated to deceive the enemy should it fall into his hands, which I thought more than probable—as well as to inform the General, should it be so fortunate as to reach him, that I would wait to hear from him, before I should proceed to execute his order. This letter, contrary to my expectations was received by the General, who, not knowing what reasons urged me to write in a tone so decisive, concluded very rationally that the manner of it was demonstrative of the most positive determination to disobey his order under any circumstance. I was therefore suspended from the command of the fort, and ordered to Head quarters, But on explaining to the General my reason for not executing his orders, and my object in using the style I had done, he was so perfectly satisfied with the explanation, that I was immediately reinstated in the command.

It will be recollected that the order above alluded to, was written on the night previous to my receiving it—had it been delivered to me, as was intended, that night, I should have obeyed it without hesitation; its not reaching me in time, was the only reason which induced me to consult my officers on the propriety of waiting the General's further orders.

It has been stated, also, that upon my representations of my ability to maintain the post, the General altered his determination to abandon it. This is incorrect. No such representation was ever made. And the last order I received from the General, was precisely the same as that first given, viz.

'That if I discovered the approach of a large British force by water, (presuming that they would bring heavy artillery,) time enough to effect a retreat, I was to do so; but if I could not retreat with safety, to defend the post to the last extremity.'

A day or two before the enemy appeared before fort Meigs, the General had reconnoitred the surrounding ground, and being informed that the hill on the opposite side of Sandusky completely commanded the fort, I offered to undertake, with the troops under my command, to remove it to that side. The General, upon reflection, thought it best not to attempt it, as he believed that if the enemy again appeared on this side of the lake, it would be before the work could be finished.

It is useless to disguise the fact, that this fort is commanded by the points of high ground around it; a single stroke of the eye made this clear to me the first time I had occasion to examine the neighborhood, with a view of discovering the relative strength and weakness of the place.

It would be insincere to say that I am not flattered by the many handsome things which have been said about the defence which was made by the troops under my command; but I desire no plaudits which are bestowed upon me, at the expense of General Harrison.

I have at all times enjoyed his confidence so far as my rank in the army entitled me to it. And on proper occasions received his marked attention. I have felt the warmest attachment for him as a man, and my confidence in him as an able commander remains unshaken. I feel every assurance that he will at all times do me ample justice; and nothing could give me more pain than to see his enemies seize upon this occasion to deal out their unfriendly feelings and acrimonious dislike—and as long as he continues (as in my humble opinion he has hitherto done) to make the wisest arrangements and most judicious disposition, which the forces under his command will justify, I shall not hesitate to unite with the army in bestowing upon him that confidence which he so richly merits, and which has on no occasion been witheld.

Your friend,

GEORGE CROGHAN *Maj 17 Inf*

Field Officers to Harrison

Lower Seneca Town, Aug. 29, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison*, 199

The undersigned, being the general, field, and staff officers, with that portion of the north-western army under the immediate command of General Harrison have observed with regret and surprise that charges as improper in the form as in the substance have been made against the conduct of General Harrison during the recent investment of Lower Sandusky. At another time, and under ordinary circumstances, we should deem it improper and unmilitary thus publicly to give any opinion respecting the movements of the army. But public confidence in the commanding General is essential to the success of the campaign, and causelessly to withdraw or to withhold that confidence, is more than individual injustice; it becomes a serious injury to the service. A part of the force, of which the American army consists, will derive its greatest strength and efficacy from a confidence in the commanding General, and from those moral causes which accompany and give energy to public opinion. A very erroneous idea respecting the number of the troops then at the disposal of the General, has doubtless been the primary cause of those unfortunate and unfounded impressions. A sense of duty forbids us from giving a detailed view of our strength at that time. In that respect, we have fortunately experienced a very favorable change. But we refer the public to the General's official report to the secretary of war, of major [George] Croghan's successful defence of Lower Sandusky. In that will be found a statement of our whole disposable force; and he who believes that with such a force, and under the circumstances which then occurred, General Harrison ought to have advanced upon the enemy must be left to correct his opinion in the school of experience.

On a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion, that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom, and by a due regard to our own circumstances and to the situation of the enemy. The reasons for this opinion it is evidently improper now to give, but we hold ourselves ready at a future period, and when other circumstances shall have intervened, to satisfy every man of its correctness who is anxious to investigate and willing to receive the truth.

And with a ready acquiescence, beyond the mere claims of military duty, we are prepared to obey a General, whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation, and merit that of his country.

LEWIS CASS, *Brig Gen. U. S. A.*
SAMUEL WELLS, *Col. 17, R. U. S. I*
THOS. D. OWINGS, *Col. 28 R. U. S. I*
GEORGE PAULL, *col. 17 R. U. S. I.*
J. C. BARTLETT, *Col. Q. M. G.*
JAMES V. BALL, *Lieut. Col.*
ROBERT MORRISON, *Lieut Col.*
GEORGE TODD, *Maj. 19 R. U. S. I.*
JAMES SMILEY, *Maj 28 R. U. S. I.*
WILLIAM TRIGG, *Maj, 28 R. U. S. I.*
RD. GRAHAM, *Maj 17 R. U. S. I.*
GEORGE CROGHAN, *Maj. 17 R. U. S. I.*
L. HUKILL, *Maj & As. Insp. Gen.*
E. D. WOOD, *Maj Engineers*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 84)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWN August 29th 1813

Har. Pa. 138-140

SIR:

An indisposition of which I am now getting the better prevented me from writing to you by last mail.

I shall be able to embark some day between the 10th and 15th Proximo with upwards of 2000 regular troops and three thousand militia. Every exertion has been and is continued to be made to prepare for the contemplated offensive operations, but as we could not navigate the Lakes untill our Flotilla came up nor accumulate any power on its margin the stores that were at Upper Sandusky and Fort Winchester during Proctor's late invasions it will take the time I have mentioned before the embarkation can be effected. It might be facilitated by moving the troops that are here immediately to the Lake and there waiting for the Kentucky Militia. But it is extremely unhealthy on the edge of the southern shore from Huron to the River Raison that the most fatal effects would follow the keeping the Troops upon it even for a few days. You can form no correct estimate of the dreadful effects of

the immediate body of stagnant water with which the vicinity of the Lake abounds, from the state of the troops at Lower Sandusky upwards of ninety are this morning reported on the sick, out of about 220. Those at Fort Meigs are all much better. This position is the most healthfull in the whole country. I am removing part of the sick from Fort Meigs here and shall place the ill men upon Edwards Island as soon as the fleet returns. The Commodore has been absent for seven days. A Frenchman from the River Raison who arrived at Fort Meigs the day before yesterday says that he was off the mouth of the Straight Thursday early but that the British fleet remained in the Harbour. This Frenchman is a respectable citizen of the Michigan Territory (Col. Navarre) and on the way from Fort Meigs saw all the Wyandots and Shawneese with their chief on the Mission to the Hostile Indians, I expect by them important information. Should they arrive before the mail closes it shall be communicated.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Sir Your Humb. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esqr. *Secretary of War*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

NEW PORT Sept 1st 1813 8 o'clock P. M.

From Governor Isaac Shelby's Letter Book B, 108

DEAR GENL.

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that I arrived here yesterday about 10 o'clock and the mounted volunteers have been crossing the Ohio since early on Monday by Companies. I have ordered the whole to concentrate at Springfield where I shall halt a day or two for some ammunition and hospital stores and endeavor to organize the army after which not a moment will be lost until I join you. my whole force as well as I can now judge will be about three thousand five hundred. They are all mounted and can reach you in ten or twelve days if we are not disappointed in forage &c. In a letter which I had the honour to address you shortly before I left Frankfort I took the liberty to recommend the calling on Governor Meigs for an additional force of his militia to enable you to make a sure stroke upon the enemy. I am still of the same opinion for although you may be restricted to a par-

ticular number to make the decent into Canada you ought to put nothing to hazard for should you even transend your power if we are fortunate your company will approve, the measure; and if otherwise we cannot complain, I shall be sorry to see any attempt made to invade the enemys country until we are prepared to hold every inch of ground that we may conquer—I am informed by a letter from your aid Major [David] Trimble of the 23rd ult., that some advance of pay would be made to the volunteers and that blankets could be furnished to such as were without any although I have not communicated the information to the troops it would be most grateful to them to receive a small advance and even a good blanket to some would be an object as many are poor men and the call has been so sudden as not to afford them the chance of supplying themselves before they started—

I shall be highly gratified to hear from you on my march and to be apprised of so much of your view as may be proper & safe to communicate at the same time believe that every precaution is necessary to avoid any intelligence falling into the hands of the enemy by which they could counteract your design. Majr. [Thomas] Bodley informed me that there was a large quantity of corn at Cleveland would it not be adviseable to have a portion of it forwarded to Sandusky. I beg you to reflect how our horses are to be supported to send them back will be out of the question I would also suggest that there is a deficiency of arms at this place by about seven hundred. I should like to be informed at what point we can be supplied. I shall cross the Ohio early in the morning on my way to join you.

I have the honour to be Your mo. obt.

ISAAC SHELBY

Mjr. Genl. WM. HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Head-Quarters, SENECA TOWNS September 4th, 1813

Niles' Register V, 86

DEAR SIR:

Information recently received has satisfied me, that the Delaware Indians near Piqua are in great danger from the resentment of the people in that quarter.

I regret that any portion of the community should thus ven-

ture to compromise the public faith and to violate engagements solemnly entered into. I regret it the more, as the policy on the part of the enemy to produce such a state of things and to excite discord and collisions between our own people and the Indians attached to our cause, is too manifest to escape observation, and facts which have come to my knowledge convince me that this obvious course of policy has been adopted, and unless its effects are immediately checked, it promises to be but too successful. I trust the authority of your excellency, aided by the good sense of the community, will be sufficient to prevent those Indians from being sacrificed to false impressions and angry passions. Did I suppose that any of these were concerned in the recent murders and depredations committed upon the frontiers I would lose no time in procuring their apprehension and bringing them to justice. I am assured by their chiefs, now here, that in case it can be proven, they will immediately apprehend and surrender them to the civil authority of the country. This is all the most rigid justice can demand. The conduct of the Shawanes upon a late and similar occasion, ought to satisfy every one that they are disposed to listen to and redress every complaint when properly made and supported. When one of their young men in July last shot one of our citizens, he was immediately apprehended by the chiefs and surrendered to general [Thomas S.] Wingate at St. Mary's; two of these very Delaware Indians who have been most strongly suspected, have lately proven their fidelity in a very exemplary manner, by the rescue of one of our officers from a party of hostile Indians. I request your excellency to take immediate steps to afford security to these people. They have thrown themselves upon us for protection. The faith of the country has been solemnly pledged that this protection shall be afforded them.

Many of their warriors are now here rendering important service to the army. If any man has just cause of complaint against them, let him come forward; he shall be heard and redressed. Were I not correctly convinced that the supicions against these people are groundless, I should be one of the last men in the country to lend them countenance and support.

But a long acquaintance with them gives me some right to judge, and their recent conduct, present situation and future hopes, convince me that their fidelity to the United States is

unquestionable. To attempt indiscriminately to murder these people, would inflict a blot upon the national honor which would never be effaced. It would drive every Indian, in their own defence, to take up arms against us, and it would afford to the enemy a subject of rejoicing to find us pursuing a course of conduct, only to be paralleled by the tragic scenes of Hampton. I yet hope the information I have received upon this subject may prove erroneous, and that my countrymen will still manifest sacred regard to public faith, which has heretofore characterized the government and community. But the crisis is so important, and the subject so interesting in every point of view, that I should have deemed myself culpable had I not requested you to direct your attention to it.

In a personal interview with your excellency, I could give you many reasons for my opinions, but as they ought not to be committed to paper, I must rest satisfied with making this communication.

I am dear sir with great regard,

Your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency R. J. MEIGS

P. S. I have been informed that the man whose wife was killed near to Piqua asserts, that he knew the Indian who killed her to be a Delaware. There are persons now here who were at Brownstown when her scalp was brought in by a party of the prophet's Indians.

B. G. ORR TO HARRISON

SENEKA TOWNS 7 Sept. 1813.

Har. Pa. 141-143

SIR:

When in Washington lately on the subject of the protested drafts of the contractors I urged to the Secretary of War the necessity of devising some means to prevent the recurrence of wants so fatal to their credit and possibly injurious to the public interest unable to ascertain what the wants of the army you command might be and unwilling to give to any one the power of drawing *ad libitum* on the public treasury he told me I must submit to you an estimate of the cost of each requisition that might be made on me for which when approved by

you as reasonable, I might draw without danger of protests. For this purpose I now enclose you a view of what I suppose the current issues to recruiting and marching parties thro the state of Ohio for the present month will amount to as well as the recent requisition for 300,000 rations for the proposed invasion of the enemys country. I hope you will find it satisfactory and that notwithstanding the want of instruction from the Secretary on the subject as it does not increase your responsibility you will not decline this the Secretary's own arrangment.

I have the honor to be Sir with Respect Yr. Most. Ob. St.

BENJ. G. ORR

Maj. Genl. HARRISON

Sept 7, 1813

THE CONTRACTORS ESTIMATE

I suppose the current issues to recruiting and marching parties throughout the state of Ohio will for the month of Sept. amount to $5000

300,000 rations recently required for the army in its operations against the enemy I suppose will cost 55000

60000

SINK A TOWN [Seneca Town] 7th Sept. 1813

The above estimate amounting to sixty thousand dollars is respectfully submitted to the consideration of Genl. Harrison.

BENJ. G. ORR

One of the contractors for the 8th Military District

A true copy

JOHN O'FALLON, *A. D. Camp.*

Return of Provision now deposited at different places on the shore of Lake Erie for the use of the N. W. army by BENJ. G. ORR & AARON GREELY *Contractors* August 25th 1813

Pork		Flour		Whiskey		Soap		Candies	
Bbl	Rations	Bbl	Rations	Gals	Ration	Pound	Ration	Pound	Rations
513	136458	761	132220	1933	61856	2000	50000	350	23333
7	1862	97	16878	66	2112				
18	4788	80	13972	3000	96000				
6	1596	25	4366						
544	144,704	963	168136	4992	159968	2000	50000	350	23333

Vinegar		Salt		
Gals.	Rations	Bbl	Rations	At what place deposited
1100	110000	65	520000	Cleaveland
		10	80,000	Huron
				Grand River
				Vermillion
1100	110000	75	600000	

Signed,

Orr & Greeley Contractor for the N. W. Army

(A true Copy)

JOHN O'FALLON, *A. D. Camp.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters SENECA TOWN 8th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 144-147

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that I am now in complete readiness to embark the troops the moment Govr. Shelby shall arrive. I shall march from hence for the margin of the Lake in three days and shall lose no time in prosecuting the contemplated offensive measures.

The Batallion of the U. S. Rifle Regiment and the recruits from Knoxville for the 24th Regiment will I fear not arrive in time but we must do without them.

Upon reference to my late letters I find that I have not communicated the result of the mission sent by the Wyandot chief to the hostile Indians. Their arrival at Brownstown was immediately communicated to the British and they were obliged to deliver their speech which was intended for the Wyandots alone to a general council of all the chiefs at which [Matthew] Elliott and [Alexander] McKee were present. The answer was given by Round Head who is entirely in the British interest and was such as Elliott dictated.

A private message was however sent by Walk in the Water the principal chief of the British Wyandots and a man of good character that he would use his utmost exertions to induce the Indians to abandon the British and that he had determined not to fight us but upon our advance to seize the Huron church at Sandwitch with all the warriors he could engage to

assist him and defend himself against the British and their Indians.

Commodore Perry has just sent me three American citizens who came from Detroit nine days ago. They had taken great pains to ascertain the enemies force previously to their coming off. They make the number of Indians from 1800 to 2000 militia 1000 Regulars 800 effectives.

The Billious and intermitant fevers are the worst enemies we have to encounter the number of sick decreases here but at Fort Meigs and Lower Sandusky nearly half the men are on the sick report.

Major Haines has resigned the appointment of Assistant Adjt. Genl. I had no alternative but to accept Col. [Edmund P.] Gains in the Execution of the duties of Adjt. Genl. having no other officer of the line capable of performing the duties of that office.

I have the Honor to enclose you the copy of a letter from Mr. [B. G.] Orr the contractor. [Sept 7 above] Having received no directions from you on the subject on which it is written I could not authorise the drafts he speaks of. I think it proper however to state that I have called upon him for 300,000 rations to be issued on the Canada shore but of this quantity he has on hand much the greater part which was purchased at Cleveland or near it with the money which he received for the bills he drew on your department previously to his going to the seat of government the last time. I enclose the schedule of the provisions which his partner Mr. [Aaron] Greely returned as being on hand on the 25th ultimo at Cleveland and in the neighbourhood of that place. In a letter from Mr. Orr of the 29th he contradicts Mr. Greely's report of the pork on hand making it two hundred barrells less, but there are at Lower Sandusky thirty-five barrells the property of the contractor which are not included in the return. One hundred and sixty five barrels of pork then deducted from the schedule it exhibits a true state of the provisions on hand to answer the demand of the 300,000 rations. the ballance must be procured by purchase. I am thus particular to enable you to judge of the sum which it may be necessary to advance to Mr. Orr. I demanded the 300,000 rations to ensure a supply upon our first arrival in Canada by uniting his exertions with those of our commissary.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter from the Genl. and field officers upon the subject of hospital stores for the army. I agree with them entirely as to the deficiency of those stores.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Sir Your Hum. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary at War*

PERRY TO HARRISON

U. S. Brig NIAGARA, off the WESTERN SISTER &c.
September 10th, 1813. 4 P. M.

McAfee, *History, 354*

DEAR GENERAL:

We have met the enemy and they are ours—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and a sloop.

Yours with great respect and esteem.

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

HARRISON TO SHELBY

Head Quarters, SENECA, 12th September, 1813

McAfee, *History, 353*

You will find arms at Upper Sandusky; also a considerable quantity at Lower Sandusky. I set out from this place in an hour. Our fleet has beyond all doubt met that of the enemy. The day before yesterday an incessant and tremendous cannonading was heard in the direction of Malden by a detachment of troops coming from fort Meigs. It lasted two hours. I am all anxiety for the event. There will be no occasion for your halting here. Lower Sandusky affords fine grazing. With respect to a station for your horses, there is the best in the world immediately at the place of embarkation. The Sandusky bay, lake Erie, and Portage river form between them a peninsula, the isthmus of which is only one mile and a half across. A fence of that length, and a sufficient guard left there, would make all the horses of the army safe. It would enclose fifty or sixty thousand acres, in which are many cultivated fields, which having been abandoned, are now grown up with the finest grass. Your sick had better be left at Upper Sandusky or here. HARRISON

PERRY TO SECRETARY OF NAVY

Sept. 12, 1813

McAfee, *History, 359*

SIR:

It has pleased the Almighty to give the arms of the U. States, a signal victory over their enemies on this lake. The British squadron, consisting of two brigs, two ships, one schooner, and one sloop have this moment, surrendered to the force under my command, after a sharp conflict.

PERRY

PERRY TO HARRISON

United States schooner ARIEL, September 15, 1813

Niles' Register V, 263

SIR:

The very great assistance in the action of the 10th inst., derived from those men you were pleased to send on board the squadron, render it a duty to return you my sincere thanks for so timely a reinforcement. In fact sir, I may say, without those men the victory would not have been achieved; and equally I assure you, that those officers and men behaved as became good soldiers and seamen. Those who were under my immediate observation evinced great ardor and bravery. Captain [Henry B.] Brevort, of the second regiment of infantry, serving on board the Niagara, I beg leave to recommend particularly to your notice; he is a brave and gallant officer, and as far as I am capable of judging an excellent one. I am convinced you will present the merit of this officer to the view of the honorable secretary of war, as I shall to the honorable secretary of the navy.

Very respectfully, I am sir, Your obedient servant,

OLIVER H. PERRY

Major Gen. WM. H. HARRISON,
Commander-in-chief of N. W. Army

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 86)

Head Quarters Mouth of PORTAGE RIVER on Lake Erie

15th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 148, 149

SIR:

You will have been informed from the letter of Commodore

Perry to the Secretary of the Navy of the Brilliant naval victory obtained by him and the capture of the whole of the enemies flotilla on this lake. I arrived here the day before yesterday with a part of the troops from Seneca town and this morning Genl. [Lewis] Cass has brought on the remainder. Governor [Isaac] Shelby has also arrived with his militia. We are busily engaged embarking the stores and artillery and by the day after tomorrow the whole will be afloat. Genl. [Duncan] McArthur will join me the day after at the Bass Islands with the troops from Fort Meigs and on the following night if the weather permits we shall sail for the Canada shore. As soon as I have driven the enemy from Malden and Detroit I shall despatch a detachment for the reduction of Mackinac and St. Josephs and will expect your orders for my further movements. The upper part of the province of Upper Canada being cleared of the enemy unless it should appear expedient to pursue the Indians the army under my command might move down the lake to long point or below it and co-operate with that under Genl. [James] Wilkinson. From my present impressions with regard to our affairs in that quarter I should if I considered myself authorised to do so immediately proceed to the lower end of the lake. Commodore Perry had out with him in the late action about one hundred and thirty of my men, he speaks in the highest terms of their conduct. Maj. [E. D.] Wood had arrived at this place with two companies when the Commodore returned to Put in Bay he immediately sent him a reinforcement of fifty men which were of great service in securing the prisoners.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Sir Your Humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JNO. ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

SPEECH OF TECUMSEH

AMHERSTSBERG, Sept. 18, 1813

Niles' Register, V, 174

In the name of the Indian chiefs and warriors, to major-general Proctor, as the representative of their great father—the king.

FATHER, listen to your children! You have them now all before you.

The war before this, our British father gave the hatchet to his red children, when our chiefs were alive. They are now dead. In that war, our father was thrown on his back by the Americans, and our father took them by the hand without our knowledge; and we are afraid that our father will do so again at this time.

Summer before last, when I came forward with my red brethren, and was ready to take up the hatchet in favor of our British father, we were told not to be in a hurry, that he had not yet determined to fight the Americans.

Listen! When war was declared, our father stood up and gave us the tomahawk, and told us that he was then ready to strike the Americans; that he wanted our assistance and that he would certainly get us our lands back, which the Americans had taken from us.

Listen! You told us, at that time, to bring forward our families to this place; and we did so; and you promised to take care of them, and that they should want for nothing, while the men would go and fight the enemy. That we need not trouble ourselves about the enemy's garrison; that we knew nothing about them, and that our father would attend to that part of the business. You also told your red children, that you would take care of your garrison here, which made our hearts glad.

Listen! When we were last to the Rapids, it is true we gave you little assistance. It is hard to fight people who live like ground hogs.

Father listen! Our fleet has gone out; we know they have fought; we have heard the great guns; but know nothing of what has happened to our father with one arm. Our ships have gone one way, and we are much astonished to see our father tying up everything and preparing to run away the other, without letting his red children know what his intentions are. You always told us to remain here and take care of our lands; it made our hearts glad to hear that was your wish. Our great father, the king, is our head, and you represent him. You always told us, that you would never draw your foot off British ground; but now, father we see you are drawing back, and we are sorry to see our father doing so without seeing the enemy. We must compare our father's conduct to a fat animal, that carries its tail upon its back, but when affrighted, he drops it between his legs and runs off.

Listen Father! The Americans have not yet defeated us by land; neither are we sure that they have done so by water; we, therefore, wish to remain here, and fight our enemy, if they should make their appearance. If they defeat us, we will then retreat with our father.

At the battle of the Rapids last war, the Americans certainly defeated us; and when we retreated to our father's fort at that place the gates were shut against us. We were afraid that it would now be the case; but instead of that we now see our British father preparing to march out of his garrison.

Father! You have got the arms and ammunition which our great father sent for his red children. If you have an idea of going away, give them to us, and you may go and welcome, for us. Our lives are in the hands of the Great Spirit. We are determined to defend our lands, and if it be his will we wish to leave our bones upon them.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Head Quarters Kingston 19th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 187-191

Sir:

The centre division of the Upper Canada army is placed in a situation very critical and one novel in the system of war that of investing a force vastly superior in numbers within a strongly intrenched position. It was adopted and has been maintained from a confident expectation that with the cooperation of the squadron under your command a combined attack ere this could have been effected on the enemy at Fort George with every prospect of success. To the local disadvantages of the position occupied by our army have unhappily been added disease and desertion to a degree calling for immediate remedy. We are therefore required to proceed with the Fleet under your command with the least possible delay to the head of the Lake affording sufficient convoy to the small vessels containing those stores and supplies of which the army is in the most pressing want. Upon your arrival near the Head Quarters of the Center Division you will consult with Major General De Rottenburg who will unite in his person the civil and military command in upper Canada upon my withdrawing from the provinces. Upon the eligibility of a combined attack for the purpose of dislodging the enemy from the position of Fort George by a rapid forward movement of the army bringing up in Battery at the same time the heavy ordnance mortars and howitzers now embarked. This attack must be supported by the countenance of your squadron and the fire of such vessels as are armed with a description of ordnance favourable to it. Should this attempt appear to you to be attended with too great hazard to the squadron under your command, under the

possible circumstance of the enemy's appearing on the Lake you will in that case distinctly state your sentiments to Major General De Rottenburg who will immediately upon ascertaining your inability to assist him to take measures for evacuating the position he now occupies in the execution of which movement you will give his army every support and assistance consistent with the safety of your vessels and having performed this service you will pursue such measures as shall appear most probable speedily to ensure the acquisition of the naval ascendancy. You are already acquainted with the decided line of conduct which I wish to be observed on Lake Erie by Captain [Robert H.] Barclay and you will not fail to impress on that officer the absolute necessity of regaining the naval superiority and to preserve uninterrupted the intercourse between Amhurstburgh and Long Point in order that the supplies and stores in depot at the latter place and at the Head of the Lake may be transported in safety to the Right Division.

The Flotilla of Transports on Lake Ontario are to be kept employed as long as the season will admit in the conveyance of the provisions and other supplies collected at Kingston and destined for the Right and Center Division of the army and they are to receive from your force the necessary protection.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most Obedient and Humble Servant

GEORGE PREVOST, *Commander of the Forces*

To Commodore SIR JAMES LUCAS YEO.

Letter found amongst Genl. Proctors papers from Sir George Provost to Sir Jas. Yeo. I shall send a detachment to Long Point to take or destroy any depot of provisions they may have there.

I have the honor to be with great respect sir your humb. servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. J. M. ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secy. of War.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

War Department SACKETT'S HARBOR 22nd Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 90

SIR

Information has reached me thro various but unofficial channels that Commodore Perry had captured the whole of the British fleet on Lake Erie. If this be true it is matter of much personal and public congratulation. It enables you to make sure of Malden and as a subsequent measure to carry your main body down the lake and by throwing yourself into De Rottenberg's rear to compel him to quit his new position

before fort George. After Genl. [James] Wilkinson shall have left that place there will be found on the two sides of the Niagara a force amounting to three thousand men who will be subjected to your order. By giving this new direction to your operations, you will readily perceive of how much more importance it is in the opinion of the Executive to beat or to expell the enemy from the country lying between the two lakes, Erie and Ontario, than to pursue the Indians into their woody and distant recesses. A few days will put us in motion from this point.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters BASS ISLAND 22nd Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 150

SIR:

The greater part of the troops are here with me and the whole will I believe be up by twelve o'clock. I shall proceed as far as the Middle Sister in the course of tonight and tomorrow and in the following night get so near the enemies coast as to land two or three vessels below Malden by eight o'clock in the morning. These prospects may however be retarded by adverse wind. Commodore Perry gives me every assistance in his power but his crews were so much cut up in the late action that he cannot navigate his vessels without the aid of my men. In obedience to your order to settle the accounts of the Kentucky militia for back rations I have appointed Lewis Sanders Esqr. a citizen of Lexington of the greatest respectability to do the business and have authorized him to draw upon you for the amount.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect your humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War.*

PERRY TO SECRETARY OF NAVY

U. S. schooner ARIEL, MALDEN HARBOR,
23d Sept. 1813, 5 P. M.

Niles' Register V, 117

SIR:

I have the honor to acquaint you that the army under ma-

jor-general Harrison have this moment marched into Malden without opposition, and that the squadron are now at anchor off the town.

I have the honor to be etc.

To the Sec. of the Navy O. H. PERRY.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters on Board the U. S. AERIEL
September 27th 1813

Har. Pa. 153-160

As it is the intention of the General to land the army on the enemy's coast the following will be the order of debarkations of march and of battle:

The right wing of the army will be composed of the Kentucky volunteers under the command of his Excellency Governor Shelby acting as Major General. The left wing of the light corps of Lieut. Col. [James V.] Ball and the Brigades of General [Duncan] McArthur and [Lewis] Cass. This arrangement is made with a view to the localities of the ground upon which the troops are to act and the composition of the enemy's forces and is calculated in marching up the lake or strait to place our regular troops in the open ground on the lake, where they will probably be opposed by the British regulars, and the Kentucky volunteers in the woods which it is presumed will be occupied by the enemy's militia and Indians. When the signal is given for putting to the shore, the corps of Lt. Col. Ball will precede the left wing; the regiment of volunteer riflemen the right wing. These corps will land with the utmost celerity consistently with preservation of good Order and as soon as landed will seize the most favorable position for annoying the enemy and covering the disembarkation of the troops of the line. Genl. Cass's Brigade will follow Col. Balls corps and General Calimes [Calmes] the volunteer Rifflemen. The regiments will land and form in succession upon those which precede them. The right wing with its left in front displaying to the right and the left wing with its right in front displaying to the left. The Brigades of Genls. [John Edward] King, [James] Allen and [Samuel] Caldwell will form successively to the right of General Calmes. General McArthurs and [David] Chile's Brigades will form the re-

serve. The General will command in person the Brigades of Genls. Cass and Calmes assisted by Major General [William] Henry. His excellency Governor Shelby will have the immediate command of the three Brigades on the right assisted by Major Genl. [Joseph] Desha. As soon as the troops are disembarked the boats are to be immediately sent back to the fleet. It will be observed that the order of landing here prescribed is somewhat that of direct Eschellons deployed into line upon the advanced corps of the right and left wing. It is the intention of the General however that all the troops who are provided with boats, should land in as quick succession as possible, and the General Officers commanding towards the extremities of the line are authorised to deviate from the arrangement to counteract any movement of the enemy by landing any part of their commands, previously to the formation of the corps which is herein directed to precede them. The Corps of Lt. Colo. Ball and the Volunteer riffle regiment will maintain the position they occupy on landing until the troops of the line are formed to support them. They will then retire through the intervals of the line, or to the flanks and form in the rear of the line.

A detachment of artillery with a six four and three pounder and Howitzer will land with the advanced light corps the rest of the artillery will be held in reserve and landed at such points as Major [E. D.] Wood may direct. The point of landing for the reserve under Brigadier Genl. McArthur cannot now be designated it will be made to support any point of the line which may require aid or be formed on the flanks as circumstances may render necessary. The arrangement for landing the troops will be made entirely under the direction of an officer of the Navy whom Commodore Perry has been so obliging as to offer for that purpose. The debarkation of the troops will be covered by the cannon of the vessels. The troops being landed and the enemy driven off or not opposing the landing the army will change its front to the left and form in order of battle in the following manner: The two Brigades of regular troops and two of the Volunteers to be formed in two lines at right angles to the shore of the Lake. General McArthurs Brigade and Calmes to form the front line, and Cass and Chiles the second line; the regular troops still on the left, that flank of both lines resting on the shore the distance

between the two lines will be three hundred yards. The remaining three Brigades of Volunteers will be drawn up in a single line of two ranks, at right angles to the line of march its head upon the right of the front line forming a crotchet (*en potence*) with that line and extending beyond the second line. The Corps of Lt. Col. Ball will form the advance of the left wing at the distance of 300 yards, the regiment of Riffle Volunteers the advance of the right wing at the same distance.

Some light pieces of artillery will be placed in the road leading up the lake and at such other points as Major Wood may direct. When the order is given for marching the first and second lines will advance by files from the heads of companies in other words these two lines will form two columns marching by their flanks by companies at entire distances. The Three Brigades on the right flank, will be faced to the left and marched forward, the head of this column still forming *en potence* with the front line. It is probable that the two Brigades of the front line will extend from the lake some distance into the woods on the right flank and it is desirable it should do so. But should it be otherwise and the crochet or angle be at any time on the open ground His Excellency Governor Shelby will immediately prolong the front line to the right by adding to it as many companies of the leading brigade of the flank column as will bring the angle and consequently the flank column itself completely within the woods. It is to be presumed that the enemy will make their attack upon the army on its march that their regular troops will form their right upon the lake, their militia occupy the ground between the regulars and the woods and the Indians and the woods. The formation herein prescribed is intended to resist an arrangement of this kind—should the genl. conjecture on this subject prove correct as it must be evident that the right of the enemy cannot be turned, and on that wing his best troops must be placed it will be proper to refuse him our left and direct our principal effort to uncover the left flank of his regulars by driving off his militia. In the event here supposed therefore it will be proper to bring up a part or the whole of Genl. Cass's Brigade to assist the charge made by Genl. Calmes or that the former should change position with the Brigade of Volunteer in the second line. Should the General think it safe to order the whole of Cass's Brigade to the right

without replacing it with another Genl. Cass will march it to the right formed in oblique eschellons of companies. It will be the business of Genl. McArthur in the event of his wing being refused to watch the motions of the enemy (and with the assistance of the artillery) prevent his front line at least from interrupting the progress of our right. Should the enemys militia be defeated, the brigade of ours in advance will immediately wheel upon the flank of the British regulars, and Genl. McArthur will advance to attack them in front. In the mean time his Excellency Governor Shelby can use the Brigade in reserve of the second line to prolong the flank line from its front or left to reinforce any weak part of the line. In all cases where troops in advance are obliged to retire through those which are advancing to support them it will be done by companies in file which will retire through the intervals of the advancing line and will immediately form in the rear. The light troops will be particularly governed by this direction.

The disposition of the Troops on the right flank is such as the commanding general thinks best calculated to resist an attack from Indians which is only to be expected from that quarter. His Excellency govr. Shelby will however use his discretion in making any alteration which his experience and judgment may dictate Lt. Col. Ball, Lt. Col. [James] Simrall and the General Officers commanding on the flank line are to send out small detachments in advance of the two former corps and to the flank of the latter should they discover the enemy in force immediate notice will be sent to the lines. The General commanding on the spot will immediately order the signal for forming in order of battle which will be the beat "to arms."

All signals will be immediately repeated by all the drums of the line. The signal for the whole to halt is the retreat. Drums will be distributed along the heads of companies and the taps occasionally given to regulate their march.

Lt. Col. Ball and Simrall are to keep the General constantly advised of the discoveries made by the advanced parties. When it shall become necessary for the corps of Ball and Simrall to retire they will form on the flank or in the rear of McArthurs and Calmes Brigades and receive the orders of the Brigadiers respectively.

Brigadier Genl. Cass will designate such officers as he may

deem proper to assist Captain Elliott of the navy in the arrangement of the boats and the debarkation of the troops. The Genl. will be the signal for the whole to move.

Detachment to reinforce the army below.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your humble svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Truly copied from the Original ROBERT BUTLER *A. A. Adj. Gen.*

By command, EDMUND P. GAINES *Col. Adj. Genl.*

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secy. of War.*

HARRISON TO GOV. MEIGS

AMHERSTSBURG, 27th of September, 1813 10 o'clock P. M.

Niles' Register V, 117

DEAR SIR:

The enemy have given up this important place without opposition; having destroyed the fort and all the public buildings which were immensely extensive and valuable, particularly the navy yard.

Proctor was yesterday at Sandwich, with his regulars and Indians. It is supposed he is bending his course to the river French, there to fortify and make a stand. I shall follow him as soon as I collect a few horses to mount the general officers and some of the staff.

A miserable French poney upon which the venerable and patriotic governor of Kentucky was mounted, is the only one in the army.

We landed three miles below the town. I wish your troops to remain at one of the Sandusky's for orders.

Your friend,

WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 87)

Head Quarters AMHURSTBURGH
27th September 1813.

Har. Pa. 151-152

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that I landed the army under my command about 3 miles below this place at 3 o'clock

this evening without opposition and took possession of the Town in an hour after. Genl. [Henry] Proctor has retreated to Sandwich with his regular troops and Indians having previously burned the Fort, Navy Yard, barracks and public store houses. The two latter were very extensive covering several acres of ground. I will pursue the enemy tomorrow altho there is no probability of overtaking him as he has upwards of 1000 horses and we have not one in the army. I shall think myself fortunate to be able to collect a sufficiency to mount the general officers. It is supposed here that Genl. Procter intends to establish himself upon the River French 40 miles from Malden.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Your most obt. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

P. S. The Aggregate amount of the force with me is about 5000 of which 2000 are regulars and the rest Kentucky militia the Pennsylvania Regits. with the exception of about 100 refused to cross the line.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO SHELBY

WAR OFFICE, September 27, 1813

Historical Register, III, 95

SIR:

In the absence of the secretary of war, I have the honour to inform your excellency, that the president has been pleased to approve your arrangements, in substituting volunteers for the detached militia required by general Harrison.

The term of service for the detachment under your excellency, must depend on the arrangements of the commanding general, to whom you are referred for the necessary information relative to their duty and the points where your troops will be expected to operate.

It will be proper for your excellency to keep up a correspondence with general Harrison. This is rendered the more necessary, as the several requisitions which have been made by him for volunteers and militia have not been accurately reported to the war office; and it is possible he may find it adviseable to discharge a part of your force before they reach the frontier.

In the present critical period of the campaign, it seems adviseable to submit all further arrangements to general Harrison, under the instructions he has received from the president through the secretary of war.

With perfect respect, I have the honour to be, your excellency's most obedient humble servant,

DANL. PARKER, *C. C. War Department*

His Excellency Gov. ISAAC SHELBY, *Gov. Ky.*

SPARKS TO HARRISON

LAWRENCEBURGH 27th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 434, 435

SIR:

Sometime ago you done me the honor to put under cover to me, a commission from the President, appointing to the office of an attorney for the U. States, in this Territory of Indiana. You and he will receive my ardent thanks, unmixed with base flattery. I never sought but one appointment (to the late vacancy in our Judiciary) from the General Government, in which I was disappointed; to the surprise and astonishment of a large portion of the citizens here; and wherefore it is difficult to account, as few applicants could expect a stronger recommendation, than was forwarded in my behalf. But as I was not influenced by motives neither popular nor lucrative (motives which never shall entirely regulate my conduct, in any pursuit, unless I degenerate in sentiment) my mortification under the disappointment was neither deep nor lasting. I am bound to believe, that my chief Magistrate, acts for the supposed best. Under the government I wish never to be a Senicure (we have too many such in the Territory already) therefore it is not my desire to hold the present office, merely for the names-sake. The duties thereof I must aim consciencionsly to observe and discharge. This I cannot do unless those duties are accurately marked, and defined with perspecuity. The Law of Congress whence the appointment emanates, does not contain any specification of obligation on the Attorney.

Amongst genuine Republicans, I believe it is not considered a crime, *mala in se*, to confess ignorance where the means to obtain information, have not been received. Then, I profess

to you, Sir, that I am at a loss to know, how far the functions of an attorney for the U. States in this Territory connect with the Judiciary establishment in the same, as filled by the U. S. judges. All crimes, as well as misdemeanors, both in the superior and inferior courts, throughout the Territory, are prosecuted in the name of, and carried on by and under the authority of the United States. Formerly the Governor, in virtue of the power, as vested in him by the ordinance, commissioned an attorney General for the Territory, who appointed his deputies in each county. At present, the Governor by the same power continues to appoint the attorney General whose duty, *inter alia,* is to prosecute in the General Court and the Governor also by Statute law, commissions a prosecutor in each county. I have entered upon the duties of my appointment, so far as they are comprehended; but I wish to be guided by a more certain director, than conjecture. Does the appointment conferred upon me take from the Governor, the right exercised under the ordinance, to appoint an Attorney General for the Territory Or does it unite with the General Court so far only, as I hold Federal District powers?

I have called on the governor for information supposing him to be a proper person, as he was in Congress at the passage of the law, but he does not understand neither the object, nor extent of the appointment! This may, at least palliate my ignorance. My dear Sir, deem me not troublesome, as I seek information, and write with great difficulty, having been confined for two weeks, by a pretty severe attack of the Fever.

I will submit to your friendly consideration, whether or not I am entitled to receive the laws of the United States? If so, where and how I am to obtain them? Here they can be had, only in detached Vols. If hereafter on any occasion you should require my services, please to command my attention. Doct. Edward Tiffen, of your city, has had with me a long acquaintance.

With my fervent orisons to the throne of God, for your health and prosperity, I am, Venerable sir, with sentiments of high regard, your Obt. Servt.

ELIJAH SPARKS

A Proclamation

By William Henry Harrison Major General in the army of the United States and commanding in chief the 8th Military District

Detroit, Sept. 29, 1813

Har. Pa. 185, 186

The enemy having been driven from the Territory of Michigan and a part of the army under my command having taken possession of it, it becomes necessary that the civil government of the Territory should be reestablished and the former officers renew the exercise of their authority. I have therefore thought proper to proclaim that all appointments and commissions which have been derived from British officers are at an end and that the citizens of the said Territory are restored to all the rights and privileges which they enjoyed previously to the capitulation made by General Hull on the 16th of August 1812. Under the present circumstances and until the will of the government can be made known I have thought proper to direct that persons having civil offices in the territory of Michigan at the period of the capitulation of Detroit resume the exercise of the powers appertaining to their offices respectively.

In the present dispersed state of its population many officers are doubtlessly absent. In all cases thus situated the last incumbent who resigned the office will resume the exercise of its duties, the laws in force at the period above mentioned will be reestablished and continue in force until repealed by the proper authority. Given at Head Quarters Detroit 29th day of September 1813.

Signed William Henry Harrison

By order of the General

Signed John O'Fallon *Aid de camp*

Harrison to Secretary of War

(No. 88)

Head Quarters Sandwitch (Upper Canada)
30th Septr. 1813

Har. Pa. 166

Sir:

The enemy having broken down the bridges over several

unfordable creeks between Amhurstburgh and this place I was unable to reach it until yesterday. Genl. Procter had the night before left his encampment eight miles above pursuing the road on the margin of the Lake to the Thames. Having so much the start of me and having striped the country of Horses, which prevented me from procuring a sufficiency to mount even the general officers it was impossible to pursue him further with any hopes of success until we could be joined by Col. [R. M.] Johnsons Regiment of mounted infantry which was on its way from Fort Meigs and which had the night before encamped at Brownstown. The Col. Arrived this day at Detroit and his Regt. is now crossing over. But as our boats are illy calculated to carry horses it is attended with much difficulty. I hope however that they will be all over early in the morning when we shall again take up the line of march. Genl. Procter has with him four hundred seventy five regulars of the 41 and Newfoundland Regiments sixty of the 10th Regiment of Vetrans 45 Dragoons and from six hundred to a thousand Indians, some deserters that left him the night before last give the latter as the number, the citizens of Detroit supposed the former to be correct. If he makes the contemplated stand on the river French he will be able to add several hundred militia to his force. My great apprehension however arrises from a belief that he will make no halt. The Potawatimies and a Banditti of Winebagoes Fox Hurons and other northwestern Indians are at the River Rouge they remained in the vicinity of Detroit until the arrival of the army at this place and continued to plunder the inhabitants to the last moment indeed but for our opportune arrival, it is more than probable that there would have been a general massacre of the Inhabitants and burning of their houses.

The Ottawas and Chippewas have withdrawn from the British and have sent in three of their warriors to beg for peace promising to agree to any terms that I shall prescribe. I have agreed to receive them upon condition of their giving hostages for their fidelity and immediately joining us with all their warriors. The Wyandots, Miamis and the band of Delawares which had joined the enemy are also desirous to be received upon the same terms. I shall enter into no engagement with them upon the subject of their lands but refer the whole to the decision of the president, the propriety of receiving the

Indians in the manner here proposed appears to me to be so obvious as to require no illustration. It was recommended to me by all the unanimous voice of all the General officers and by the urgent entreaties of the citizens of Detroit, whose safety cannot be ascertained without it. Two thousand men placed at Detroit could not protect the scattered settlements from the depredations of the hostile Indians. The gleanings of the farms and of the corn fields would afford them support for months. I think it necessary however that some severe example should be made and every motive of justice and policy points at the Potawatimies as the Tribe which ought to be selected for the purpose. They are the most guilty and the most able on any further occasion to give trouble to the U. States. The celebrated Chief Main Pock is at the head of the hostile band on the Detroit side of the Streight. Tecumseh leads that which remains with the British. The inhabitants of Detroit who were in daily communication with them, make the former from one thousand to twelve hundred their object in dividing their force was to make a night attack upon the part of the army which crossed over to Detroit or that which remained on this side by a junction of their force some miles above.

A detachment of the army and some of the vessels of War will set out for the reduction of Macinac and St. Josephs in a few days. The occupancy of Chicago must be left for another season. the Militia have already become restless and desirous of returning home. They will go however with cheerfulness as long as there is a prospect of overtaking the enemy but no human influence will keep them any longer. I shall have, after their departure and that of the 12 months volunteers, about twenty-five hundred regulars; these will be sufficient for the reduction of Maccinac and for the safety of the country. But until the Indians are more completely under our control I do not think it would be proper to make any Detachment to reinforce the army below.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir your Humbl. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secty of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 89

Head Quarters Near MORAVIAN TOWN on the River French [Thames] 80 miles from DETROIT 5th Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 161-165

SIR:

I have the honour to inform you that by the blessing of providence the army under my command has this evening obtained a complete victory over the combined Indian and British forces under the command of Genl. [Henry] Proctor.

I believe that nearly the whole of the enemies Regulars are taken or killed amongst the former are all the superior officers excepting Genl. Procter. My mounted men are now in pursuit of him.

Our loss is very trifling. The brave Col. R. M. Johnson is the only officer whom I have heard of that is wounded. He badly but I hope not dangerously. [Mortality in the duplicate]

I have the honor to be with great respect your obt. svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary at War*

(This was sent in duplicate, both copies arriving)

PROCTOR TO HARRISON

October 8th, 1813

Niles' Register V, 312

SIR:

The Fortune of War having placed the private property of the officers and several Families of the Right Division of the British Army in Upper Canada in your power, as also letters, Papers, and Vouchers of the greatest consequence to individuals without being of any to the cause of the captors, I do myself the honor of applying to you in their behalf, hoping that agreably to custom of War you will avail yourself of this favorable opportunity to alleviate private Feelings by causing the said property and Documents to be restored. I must also intreat that every consideration in your power be shown for private families not of the army. I trust that with the same view, you will permit the Bearer hereof to ascertain the fate of Individuals and that you you will facilitate the retreat of

any Families that may have unfortunately been interrupted in the attempt.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient and humble servant.

(signed) HENRY PROCTOR
Maj. General in his Brittanic Majesty's Service

Major Gen. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 90)

Head Quarters DETROIT 9th October 1813
Har. Pa. 168-180

SIR:

In my letter from Sandwich of the 30th ultimo [see above] I did myself the honor to inform you that I was preparing to pursue the enemy the following day. From various causes however I was unable to put the troops in motion until the morning of the 2nd Instant and then to take with me only about one hundred and forty of the Regular Troops. [R. M.] Johnson's mounted Regiment and such of Gov. Shelby volunteers as were fit for a rapid march the whole amounting to about three thousand five hundred men. To Genl. [Duncan] McArthur (with aout seven hundred effectives) the protecting of this place and the sick was committed. Genl. [Lewis] Cass's Brigade and the Corps of Lt. Col. [James V.] Ball were left at Sandwich with orders to follow me as soon as the men received their knapsacks and blankets, which had been left on an Island in Lake Erie.

The unavoidable delay at Sandwich was attended with no disadvantage to us. Genl. Proctor had posted himself at Dalson's on the right bank of the Thames (or French) fifty six miles from this place where I was informed he intended to fortify and wait to receive me. He must have believed however that I had no disposition to follow him or that he had secured my continuance here by the reports that were circulated that the Indians would attack and destroy the place upon the advance of the army. As he neglected to commence the breaking up the bridges until the night of the second instant. On that night our army reached the river which is twenty five miles from Sandwich and is one of four streams crossing our route, over all of which are bridges, and being deep and

muddy are unfordable for a considerable distance into the country. the bridge here was found entire and in the morning I proceeded with Johnson's Regiment to save if possible the others. At the second bridge over a branch of the River Thames we were fortunate enough to capture a Lieut. of Dragoons and eleven privates who had been sent by Genl. Proctor to destroy them. From the prisoners I learned that the third bridge was broken up and that the enemy has no certain information of our advance. The bridge having been imperfectly destroyed, was soon repaired and the army encamped at Drake's farm four miles below Dalson's.

The river Thames along the banks of which our route lay is a fine deep stream, navigable for vessels of considerable burthen, after the passage of the bar at its mouth, over which there is six and a half feet water.

The baggage of the army was brought from Detroit in boats protected by three gun boats, which Commodore Perry had furnished for the purpose as well as to cover the passage of the army over the Thames itself, or the mouths of its tributary streams; the banks being low and the country generally open (Prairies) as high as Dalson's these vessels were well calculated for that purpose. Above Dalson's however, the character of the river and adjacent country is considerably changed. The former, though still deep is very narrow and its banks high and woody. The Commodore [Perry] and myself therefore agreed upon the propriety of leaving the boats under a guard of one hundred and fifty infantry and I determined to trust to fortune and the bravery of my troops to effect the passage of the river. Below a place called Chatham and four miles above Dalson's is the third unfordable branch of the Thames. the bridge over its mouth had been taken up by the Indians as well as that at McGregor's Mills one mile above. Several hundred of the Indians remained to dispute our passage and upon the arrival of the advanced guard, commenced a heavy fire from the opposite bank of the creek as well as that of the river. Believing that the whole force of the enemy was there I halted the army formed in order of battle and brought up our two six pounders to cover the party that were ordered to repair the bridge. A few shot from those pieces soon drove off the Indians and enabled us in two hours to repair the bridge and cross the troops. Col. Johnson's

mounted regiment being upon the right of the army had seized the remains of the bridge at the Mills under a heavy fire from the Indians. Our loss upon this occasion was two killed and three or four wounded. That of the enemy was ascertained to be considerably greater. A house near the bridge, containing a very considerable number of muskets had been set on fire but it was extinguished by our troops and the arms saved. At the first farm above the bridge we found one of the enemy's vessels on fire, loaded with arms and ordnance stores and learned that they were a few miles ahead of us still on the right bank of the river with the great body of Indians. At Bowles's farm, four miles from the bridge we halted for the night found two other vessels and a large distillery filled with ordnance and other valuable stores to an immense amount in flames. It was impossible to put out the fire—two twenty four pounders with their carriages were taken and a large quantity of ball and shells of various sizes. The army was put in motion early on the morning of the 5th. I pushed on in advance with the mounted regiment and requested Gov. Shelby to follow as expeditiously as possible with the Infantry the Gov.'s zeal and that of his men enabled them to keep up with the cavalry and by 9 o'clock we were at Arnold's Mills having taken in the course of the morning two gunboats and several batteaux loaded with provisions and ammunition. A rapid in the river at Arnolds Mills affords the only fording to be met with for a very considerable distance but upon examination, it was found too deep for the Infantry. Having however fortunately taken two other boats and some Indian canoes on the spot and obliging the horsemen to take a foot man behind each, the whole were safely crossed by 12 o'clock. 8 miles from the crossing we passed a farm where a part of the British troops had encamped the night before under the command of Col. Warbarton. The detachment with Genl. Proctor had arrived the day before at the Moravian Town four miles higher up.

Being now certainly near the enemy I directed the advance of Johnson's Regiment to accellerate their march for the purpose of procuring intelligence. The officer commanding it, in a short time, sent to inform me that his progress was stopped by the enemy who were formed across our line of march. One of the enemy's waggoners being also taken prisoner

from the information received from him, and my own observation, assisted by some of my officers I soon ascertained enough of their position and order of battle to determine that which it was proper for me to adopt.

I have the honour herewith to enclose you my general order of the 27 ultimo [not found] prescribing the order of March and of battle when the whole army should act together. But as the number and description of the troops had been essentially changed since the issuing of the order, it became necessary to make a corresponding alteration in their disposition. From the place where our army was last halted, to the Moravian Towns, a distance of about three and a half miles, the road passes through a beech forest without any clearing and for the first two miles near to the bank of the River. At from two to three hundred yards from the river a swamp extends parallel to it, throughout the whole distance. The intermediate ground is dry and although the trees are tolerably thick, it is in many places clear of underbrush. Across this strip of land its left appayed upon the river supported by artillery placed in the wood, their right in the swamp covered by the whole of their Indian force, the British Troops were drawn up. The troops at my disposal consisted of about one hundred and twenty regulars of the 27th regiment, five brigades of Kentucky Volunteer Militia Infantry under his Excellency Gov. Shelby, averaging less than five hundred men and Col. Johnson's Regiment of Mounted Infantry making in the whole an aggregate something above three thousand. No disposition of an army opposed to an Indian force can be safe unless it is secured on the flanks and in the rear. I had therefore no difficulty in arranging the Infantry conformably to my general order of battle. Genl. [George] Trotter's brigade of five hundred men formed the front line, his right upon the road and his left upon the swamp Genl. [John Edward] King's brigade as a second line one hundred and fifty yards in the rear of Trotter's and [David] Chiles' brigade as a *corps de reserve* in the rear of it these three brigades formed the command of Major Genl. [William] Henry. the whole of Genl. [Joseph] Deshai's Division consisting of two brigades were formed *en potence* upon the left of Trotter.

Whilst I was engaged in forming the Infantry I had directed Col. Johnson's Regiment which was still in front, to be formed

in two lines opposite to the enemy and upon the advance of the Infantry to take ground to the left and forming upon that flank to endeavour to turn the right of the Indians. A moments reflection however convinced me that from the thickness of the woods and swampiness of the ground, they would be unable to do anything on horseback and there was no time to dismount them and place their horses in security. I therefore determined to refuse my left to the Indians and to break the British lines at once by a charge of the Mounted Infantry. the measure was not sanctioned by anything that I had seen or heard of but I was fully convinced that it would succeed. The American backwoodsmen ride better in the woods than any other people. A musket or rifle is no impediment to them being accustomed to carry them on horseback from their earliest youth. I was persuaded too that the enemy would be quite unprepared for the shock and that they could not resist it. Conformably to this idea I directed the regiment to be drawn up in close column with its right at the distance of fifty yards from the road, (that it might be in some measure protected by the trees from the artillery) its left upon the swamp and to charge at full speed as soon as the enemy delivered their fire. The few regular troops of the 27th Regiment under their Col. [George] (Paul) occupied in column of sections of four, the small space between the road and the river for the purpose of seizing the enemy's artillery and some ten or twelve friendly Indians were directed to move under the bank. The *Crotchet* formed by the front line and Genl. Desha's division was an important point. At that place, the venerable Governor of Kentucky was posted, who at the age of sixty-six preserves all the vigor of youth, the ardent zeal which distinguished him in the Revolutionary War and the undaunted bravery which he manifested at King's Mountain. with my aids de camp the acting assistant adjutant General Capt. [Robert] Butler my gallant friend Commodore Perry who did me the honour to serve as my volunteer aid de camp and Brigadier General Cass who having no command tendered me his assistance. I placed myself at the head of the front line of Infantry, to direct the movements of the Cavalry and give them the necessary support. The army had moved on in this order but a short distance, when the mounted men received the fire of the British line and were ordered to charge,

the horses in the front of the column recoiled from the fire, another was given by the enemy and our column at length getting in motion broke through the enemy with irresistible force. in one minute the contest in front was over. the British officers seeing no hopes of reducing their disordered ranks to order, and our mounted men wheeling upon them and pouring in a destructive fire immediately surrendered. it is certain that three only of our troops were wounded in this charge (upon the left however the contest was more severe with the Indians. Col. Johnson, who commanded on that flank of his regiment received a most galling fire from them, which was returned with great effect). The Indians still further to the right advanced and fell in with our front line of Infantry near its junction with Desha's division and for a moment made an impression upon it. His Excellency Gov. Shelby however brought up a regiment to its support and the enemy receiving a severe fire in front, and a part of Johnson's Regiment having gained their rear, retreated with precipitation their loss was very considerable in the action and many were killed in their retreat.

I can give no satisfactory information of the number of Indians that were in the action but they must have been considerably upwards of one thousand. From the documents in my possession (Genl. Proctor's official letters all of which were taken) and from the information of respectable inhabitants of this Territory the Indians kept in pay by the British were much more numerous than has been generally supposed. In a letter to Genl. De. Rottenburg of the 27th Inst. Genl. Proctor speaks of having prevailed upon most of the Indians to accompany him. Of these it is certain that fifty or sixty Wyandot Warriors abandoned him.

A British officer of high rank, assured one of my Aids de Camp that on the day of our landing Gen. Proctor had at his disposal upwards of three thousand Indian Warriors but asserted that the greatest part had left him previous to the action.

The number of our troops was certainly greater than that of the enemy but when it is recollected that they had chosen a position that effectually secured their flank which it was impossible for us to turn and that we could not present to them

a line more extended than their own it will not be considered arrogant to claim for my troops the palm of superior bravery.

In communicating to the President through you Sir my opinion of the conduct of the officers who served under my command I am at a loss how to mention that of Gov. Shelby being convinced that no eulogium of mine can reach his merits. The Governor of an independent State greatly my superior in years, in experience and in military character he placed himself under my command and is not more remarkable for his zeal and activity than for the promptitude and cheerfulness with which he obeyed my orders. The Major Generals Henry and Desha and the brigadiers [James] Allen, [Samuel] Caldwell, King, Chiles, and Trotter all of the Kentucky volunteers manifested great zeal and activity. Of. Gov. Shelby's staff his adjutant General Col. [Joseph] McDowell and his Quarter Master Genl. Col. [George] Walker rendered great service, as did his aids de camp Genl. [John] Adair and Majors [William T.] Barry and [J. F.] Crittenden the military skill of the former was of great service to us and the activity of the two latter Gentlemen could not be surpassed. Illness deprived me of the talents of my adjutant General Col. [Edmund P.] Gaines who was left at Sandwich. His duties were however ably performed by the acting assistant adjutant general Capt. Butler. My aids de camp Lt. [John] O'Fallon and Capt. [Charles Scott] Todd of the Line and my volunteer aids John Speed Smith and John Chambers Esq. have rendered me the most important services from the opening of the Campaign. I have already stated that Genl. Cass and Commodore Perry assisted me in forming the troops for action the former is an officer of the highest merit and the appearance of the brave Commodore cheered and animated every breast.

It would be useless Sir after stating the circumstances of the action to pass encommium upon Col. Johnson and his regiment. Veterans could not have manifested more firmness. The Colonel's numerous wounds prove that he was in the post of danger. Lt. Col. James Johnson and the Majors [De Vall] Payne and [David] Thompson were equally active though more fortunate. Major [E. D.] Wood of the Engineers already distinguished by his conduct at Fort Meigs attended the army with two six pounders. Having no use for them in the action, he joined in the pursuit of the enemy and with

Major Payne of the Mounted Regiment two of my aids de camp Todd and Chambers and three privates continued it for several miles after the rest of the troops had halted and made many prisoners.

I left the army before an official return of the prisoners or that of the killed and wounded was made out. It was however ascertained that the former amounts to six hundred and one regulars including twenty-five officers. Our loss is seven killed and twenty two wounded five of which have since died. of the British Troops twelve were killed and twenty two wounded the Indians suffered most, thirty three of them having been found upon the ground besides those killed in the retreat.

On the day of the action, six pieces of brass artillery were taken, and two iron twenty four pounders the day before. Several others were discovered in the River and can be easily procured. of the Brass Pieces three are the trophies of our Revolutionary War, that were taken at Saratoga and York and surrendered by General Hull. The number of small arms taken by us and destroyed by the enemy must amount to upwards of five thousands most of them had been ours and taken by the enemy at the surrender of Detroit, at the river Raisin and Colo. [William] Dudley's defeat. I believe that the enemy retain no other military trophy of their victories than the standard of the 4th Regiment. They were not magnanimous enough to bring that of the 41st Regiment into the field or it would have been taken.

You have been informed Sir of the conduct of the Troops under my command in action it gives me great pleasure to inform you that they merit also the approbation of their country for their conduct in submitting to the greatest privations with the utmost cheerfulness. The Infantry were entirely without tents and for several days the whole army subsisted upon fresh beef without bread or salt.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your Humb. Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Gen JOHN ARMSTRONG *Sec. of War*

P. S. Genl. Proctor escaped by the fleetness of his horse escorted by forty dragoons and a number of mounted Indians.

Extract from the Deposition of Major Chambers

Dawson, *Harrison*, 424

During the whole pursuit, and indeed from the time I first joined General Harrison, he evinced in his whole conversation and conduct the most ardent disposition to push the campaign into the enemy's country, and to meet general Proctor in the field, at the same time that he evinced a devotion to his duties which I have never seen equalled in any station.

John Chambers[1]

Extract from the Deposition of Colonel Todd

Dawson, *Harrison*, 424

During the whole period that I had the pleasure to be associated with General Harrison, with various opportunities of observing his conduct and appreciating his motives, I do most unequivocally declare my conviction, that the unremitted zeal, the unshaken firmness, the spotless integrity, and the consummate ability with which he conducted the north-western army to complete victory amidst innumerable difficulties, (correctly estimated by those only who participated in them) secured my entire approbation, and give him just claims to the eternal gratitude of his country.

C. S. Todd[2]

Cass to Harrison

Aug. 31, 1817

Dawson, *Harrison*, 423

Upon the subject of the council which was held at Sandwich I cannot speak with precision; I think that for some cause I do not now recollect, I was not present at its deliberations. But I do recollect that at all the interviews I had with you, you were ardent and zealous for the pursuit of Proctor, nor did I ever hear that a doubt had been expressed by you upon that subject till long after the events themselves had passed away. In the letter from governor Shelby to you which has been published, the governor has stated so correctly and dis-

1. Aid de Camp of Harrison at the battle.

2. Colonel of the 17th regiment. These extracts are printed here merely to indicate that these campaigns were all fought over again and again in Congress, in the press and on the stump.

tinctly the propositions which were made for the pursuit of Proctor, that there is the less necessity for me to enter into a detail of them. The main body of the enemy's army had left Amherstburg some days before we landed, and were understood to be upon the river French. If conducted with common prudence, it was my opinion then and it is my opinion yet that they might have moved with such celerity as to have rendered it impracticable for us to have overtaken them. A deep indentation of the lake some distance below Malden would have brought us within a few miles of the road upon which Proctor retreated, and considerably advanced of the position where we overtook him. The propriety of pursuing him along the road he had taken, or of endeavouring to intercept him by the other route was the subject of conversation on our first arrival at Sandwich. But whenever I conversed with you, the latter route was mentioned as one which deserved examination rather than one upon which any decided opinion had been formed. Upon a consideration of its uncertainty at that season of the year, it was soon abandoned. I was with you frequently, and conversed with you freely during our continuance at Sandwich, and am confident you never hesitated in your determination to pursue Proctor. So far as my feeble testimony can aid in removing erroneous impressions, which have injured you, it is given with pleasure. From the time I joined the army under your command its operations were conducted with as much celerity as possible, and so far as respects yourself, its fiscal concerns, I am confident, were managed with the most scrupulous integrity.

[Lewis Cass]

[Extract]

Shelby to Harrison

Frankfort, April 21, 1816

Dawson, *Harrison*, 422

Dear General, your letter of the 15th instant has been duly received in which you stated that a charge has been made against you, "that you were forced to pursue Proctor from my remonstrances," and that I had said to you, upon that occasion "that it was immaterial what direction you took, that I was resolved to pursue the enemy up the Thames": and you re-

quest me to give you a statement of facts in relation to the council of war held at Sandwich.

I will in the first place freely declare that no such language ever passed from me to you, and that I entertained throughout the campaign too high an opinion of your military talents to doubt for a moment your capacity to conduct the army to the best advantage. It is well recollected that the army arrived at Sandwich in the afternoon of the 29th of September, and that the next day was extremely wet. I was at your quarters in the evening of that day; we had a conversation relative to the pursuit of the enemy, and you requested me to see you early the next morning. I waited on you just after day break, found you up, apparently waiting for me; you led me into a small private room and on the way observed, 'We must not be heard.' You were as anxious to pursue Proctor as I was, but might not have been entirely satisfied as to the route. You observed that there were two ways by which he might be overtaken; one was down the lake by water, to some post or point, of the name of which I am now not positive, thence to march across by land twelve miles to the road leading up the Thames, and intercept him. The other way, by land, up the strait, and up the Thames. I felt satisfied by a pursuit on land that he could be overhauled, and expressed that opinion with the reasons on which it was founded, and we readily agreed in sentiment; but you observed as there were two routes by which he might be overtaken, to determine the one most proper was a measure of great responsibility, that you would take the opinion of the general officers as to the most practicable one, and you requested me to collect them in one hour at your quarters. I assembled them accordingly, to whom you stated your determination to pursue Proctor, and your object in calling them together; and after explaining the two routes by which he might be overtaken, you observed, 'that the governor thinks, and so do I, that the pursuit by land up the Thames will be most effectual.' The general officers were in favour of a pursuit by land; and in the course of that day colonel Johnson with his mounted regiment was able to cross over from the Detroit side to join in the chase. He might, however, have been ordered the day before during the rain to cross over with his regiment, but of this I have not a distinct recollection. The army I know was on its march by sunrise on

the morning of the 2nd of October, and continued the pursuit (often in a run) until the evening of the 5th, when the enemy was overtaken. During the whole of this long and arduous pursuit, no man could make greater exertions or use more vigilance than you did to overtake Proctor, whilst the skill and promptitude with which you arranged the troops for battle, and the distinguished zeal and bravery you evinced during its continuance, merited and received my highest approbation.

In short, sir, from the time I joined you to the moment of our separation, I believe that no commander ever did or could make greater exertions than you did to effect the great objects of the campaign. I admired your plans, and thought them executed with great energy; particularly your order of battle and arrangements for landing on the Canada shore were calculated to inspire every officer and man with a confidence that we could not be defeated by any thing like our own number.

Until after I had served the campaign of 1813, I was not aware of the difficulties which you had to encounter as commander of the north-western army. I have since often said, and still do believe, that the duties assigned to you on that occasion were more arduous and difficult to accomplish than any I had ever known confided to any commander; and with respect to the zeal and fidelity with which you executed that high and important trust, there are thousands in Kentucky, as well as myself, who believed it could not have been committed to better hands.

With sentiments of the most sincere regard and esteem, I have the honour to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ISAAC SHELBY

Maj Gen WM HARRISON

PERRY TO HARRISON

NEWPORT, August 18, 1817

Dawson, *Harrison*, *423*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have received your letter of the 11th ult. in which you request me to reply to the following questions, viz, first, 'Whether the statements made by governor Shelby in his let-

ter to you of the 21st April, 1816, be substantially correct?' to which I reply in the affirmative. Secondly, 'Whether you did ever, either in the council held at Sandwich or in private conversation with me, evince anything like an indisposition to pursue the British army by one of the two routes which were under consideration?" to which I answer in the negative. In a conversation which I held with you the morning prior to the assembling of the general council at Sandwich, you appeared particularly desirous of attempting to cut off the retreat of the British army by the route from port Talbot. To your arguments in favour of this measure I opposed our limited means of transportation, and the great difficulty and uncertainty of the lake navigation at that season of the year. These obstacles appeared to induce you to have recourse to the measure which was afterwards adopted.

Although I have little or no pretensions to military knowledge as relates to an army, still I may be allowed to bear testimony to your zeal and activity in the pursuit of the British army under general Proctor, and to say, the prompt change made by you in the order of battle on discovering the position of the enemy always has appeared to me to have evinced a high degree of military talent. I concur most sincerely with the venerable governor Shelby in his general approbation of your conduct (as far as it came under my observation) in that campaign. With great regard, I am, my dear sir, your friend.

O. H. PERRY

Maj. Gen. W. H. HARRISON

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE

JEFFERSONVILLE Oct. 9th 1813

Har. Pa. 446-449

DEAR SIR:

Presuming that some erroneous statements may have heretofore been made to you, The Honble. Secretary of War, or His Excellency the President, respecting my conduct whilst acting Governor of this Territory (Indiana) in the acceptance of certain rangeing companies And in order to repel any malevolent misrepresentations or insinuations that may hereafter be made against me upon that subject I now take the liberty of giving you a succinct detail of my conduct in regard to those

Rangeing companies and earnestly solicit your friendship in communicating the same to His excellency the President and Honble. the Secretary of War.

On the 20th of March Ult. I received a circular letter [see Feb. 27 above] from the Honble. Jonathan Jennings, (the Delegate from Indiana in Congress) dated City of Washington 27th February 1813 informing me that he had made arrangements with the Honble. Secretary of War for the raising of Four additional Companies of Rangers to consist of Five Commissioned officers and One Hundred and one noncommissioned officers and privates to be stationed in the Territory for the protection of the Frontier, that the men were then to meet and elect their officers, and then make a tender of their services to the Governor or Secretary of the Territory, who should recommend the officers to His Excellency the President, whereupon commissions would be forwarded from the war Department. A number of Mr. Jennings' circulars of the same tenor and date, were received by individuals at the time I received the one addressed to me and notwithstanding my conviction of the impropriety of acting officially upon the *ipsi dixit* of even the Honble Jon. Jennings, I was importuned by offers of companies, pursuant to the circulars and the alarming cricis in which the territory was placed by savage depredations and menaces; induced me to act under the letter. The result has however proved that a contrary determination in me, would not only have been adviseable but prudent. My determination to act being avowed, Lieut. Craven Payton then of one of the old Companies of U. S. Rangers tendered himself, and proposed to raise a company either in the Territory or from Kentucky, From my personal knowledge of Mr. Payton, information of the respectability of his connections and the warm recommendations of Colonel William Russell of the 7th U. S. Regiment (under whom Mr. Peyton had served upon his and Governor Edward's excursion to Peoria) I accepted of his offer and directed him to repair to Kentucky, raise his company as immediately as possible (for I considered that being raised and brought from thence, they would be a great acquisition to our strength and phisical means of defence) and repair by the way of Jeffersonville to Velonia, from which latter place an Expedition was intended to be marched under command of Col. Russell against the Mississineway Indians.

Thus I considered one of the four companies disposed of. About this time Capt. Pierre Andre tendered his services, was accepted and the officers recommended by me. Thus a second company was disposed of.

A few days afterwards Capt. William Hargrove tendered himself and company to me, and I accepted his offer and early in April he was ordered by me to report himself to Colonel Russell. Thus I considered a third company disposed of. It may not be improper here to observe that oweing to a neglect in Capt. Hargrove's Muster Maker, his Muster Rolls did not come on to me, consequently I could not recommend his company not knowing who they had elected as their officers.

In the latter part of March or beginning of April Capt. [Williamson] Dunn (of Jefferson County) went on to Vincennes with the muster roll of his company which I accepted and shortly after recommended the officers. Then and there was the four companies compleat. About this time Capt. [Patrick] Shields of Harrison County Capt. [James] Bigger of Clark, and Capt. [Frederick] Shoults of Franklin tendered themselves (in person or by letter) and companies whom I severally rejected, because I considered the four companies already accepted of.

I will now remark as to Capt. Peyton and Hargrove, that they are athletic, courageous and enterprising men, men whose patriotism have always been held in the highest estimation and their companies have since the month of April last peformed very arduous and beneficial services in the protectoin of our frontier.

I have the honor to be Dr. Sir with sentiments of the highest consideration and esteem Your obd. and very Humble servant.

JNO. GIBSON
Secry. of Indiana Territory

The Honble JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of State of the U. S.*
Washington City

P. S. His Excellency Gov. Posey has written fully to the Honble. The Secretary of War upon this subject. I beg leave to refer you to his letters for further particulars. J. G.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 91)

Head Quarters DETROIT 10th Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 181-184

SIR:

Previously to my leaving Sandwich with the army I had received a deputation from the Tawas [Ottowas] and a few Chippewas who had abandoned the British soliciting forgiveness and desiring to know upon what terms they could be again taken under the protection of the U. States. I returned for answer that the final decision of their fate rested with the Government that I could only suspend hostilities against them which would be done upon the condition of their bringing in their wives and children as hostages and immediately joining their arms to ours. This proposition was readily agreed to but as the arrangement could not be made before the march of the army I directed Genl. McArthur to attend to it. Accordingly after my departure, the Chiefs came in attended by those of the Miami Tribe and some Potawatimies all of whom requested to be allowed the same terms. They are now encamped about three miles from this Town with their families. A few miles further are the band of Potawatimies headed by Marpock, the most inveterate of our enemies. From him also some feint propositions have been made to Genl. McArthur but I am convinced with no other view then to wait the issue of the contest upon the river Thames. I informed you sometime ago that the Wyandot chief Walk-in-the-Water informed me that he had prepared his warriors to join me upon my arrival here. I believe he did separate himself from the Hostile party upon our landing and was in the neighborhood of Sandwich upon our arrival there but he fell back upon the Thames probably fearful of falling in with our mounted militia. Upon my advance up the Thames he sent a flag to me to know my pleasure. I directed him to remove with his women and children up the creek upon which he was then encamped and remain there. He did so and I expect him today. I am very much at a loss to know what to do with these people. There are many considerations of policy which urge the pardoning of the small tribe of Tawas and such of the Wyandots as have acted with the British; they have also some claims upon our humanity as they certainly saved the inhabitants of this ter-

ritory from a general massere. The citizens are very desirous of having them spared under the full conviction that their safety will be better ascertained by that means than by any other that could be adopted.

The Miamies and Potawatimies deserve no mercy, they were the tribes most favored by us. They have been (the latter particularly) our most cruel and inveterate enemies. Under present circumstances however it would be proper to grant them an armistice in order to get them to their own grounds where they will be perfectly in our power. Genl. McArthur has pledged himself too far with them to authorize me to strike them without some new provocation, this they will take care not to give. Indeed I believe that the Indian War may be terminated with a little management without any further bloodshed and the terms of peace dictated by the U. States unless we suffer the British again to get footing in our Territory. I should be thankful for instructions from the government on this subject and the course of conduct to be pursued with the Indians as soon as possible.

In granting them an armistice I was governed by the following considerations—Should we press upon them without destroying them, they will join the British army on Lake Ontario. Although the possession of this country will cut off the communication between the Indians of the Wabash, Illinois, Huron and St. Joseph Rivers until we are in possession of Montreal, the northern Indians will be entirely independent of us.

Arrangements have been made by Commodore Perry and myself to send a detachment of troops in some of his vessels immediately to Macinac for the reduction of that post and St. Josephs. It will sail from here I hope the day after tomorrow. The assistance or neutrality of the Chippewas and Tawas would greatly facilitate the reduction of these posts. I see by the late papers that there is a great danger of a general defection of the southern Indians. There is a constant and regular communication between them and the hostile tribes in this quarter the former will soon be informed of the extremity to which the Indians here have been reduced by listening to the insidious councils of the British and it may have the effect of preventing the defection of such of the southern tribes as have not yet taken up the Tomahawk against us.

I have the honor to enclose you a proclamation which I issued upon my first arrival here. The superior officers of the Territory are much wanted. I shall take upon myself to arm and organize the militia for their temporary defence.

Gen. Proctor had placed the upper district of U. Canada under martial law some days before our landing so far as to seize and send off suspected persons and to take from the farmers the necessary subsistance for his troops. I shall continue the government upon the same footing until I receive the directions of the President. The Kentucky volunteers turned out only to effect the conquest of this district they will immediately return home.

The public buildings of every description at Malden were burned, as were the barracks and magazines in the fort at this place. Is it the intention of the government to have the fort at Malden repaired or shall a new one be built on the Island of Bois Blanc which is opposite to Malden on our side of the channel?

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a [Proclamation] [see Sept. 29 above]

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Head-quarters, DETROIT, Oct. 11, 1813

Niles' Register V, 186

DEAR GOVERNOR:

You will have heard before this reaches you that I was fortunate enough to overtake general Proctor, and his tawny allies, and to give them a complete drubbing. I have six hundred and one prisoners of the British regulars, officers included, among which there are two colonels.

Nothing but infatuation could have governed genl. Proctor's conduct. The day that I landed below Malden he had at his disposal upwards of 3,000 Indian warriors; his regular force, reinforced by the militia of the district, would have made his numbers nearly equal to my aggregate; which, on the day of landing, did not exceed 4500. The papers have greatly exaggerated the number of militia from Kentucky; those which embarked with me at Portage, did not amount to three thousand rank and file, and several hundred of them were left in the islands.

The Indians were extremely desirous of fighting us at Malden. I enclose you Tecumseh's speech to Proctor; [Sept. 18 above] it is at once an evidence of the talents of the former, and the great defect of them in the latter. His inferior officers say that his conduct has been a continued series of blunders. He manifested, indeed, some judgement in the choice of his field of battle, as he was so posted that I could not turn him, and could only oppose a line of equal extent to his. However, the contest was not for a moment doubtful. The greater part of his Indians were in the air (according to the Persian military phraseology) and his regulars broken and were made prisoners by a single charge of mounted infantry. We took up on the ground, or near it, a fine brass field train of artillery, Several of the pieces are the trophies of the revolution, taken at Saratoga and York, and surrendered by gen. Hull. The number of small arms and military stores taken by us or destroyed by the enemy is immense. My force in the action, of all descriptions, was short of 2500.

I am preparing an expedition to Michilimackinac, and another to Long Point, to destroy at the latter a depot of provisions.

I shall send orders to general [John S.] Gano, by this conveyance. It is probable that the greater part of his troops may be dismissed in a short time. The Indians in this neighborhood, are submitting at discretion.

I am your friend.

WM. H. HARRISON

To Governor MEIGS

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 93.)

Head Quarters DETROIT 11th Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 192

SIR:

Upon submitting my official letter to you of the 9th [see above] to Gov. Shelby, he has convinced me that I have greatly overrated our force in the action of the 5th and that it fell short of two thousand five hundred of every description.

It is also proper to observe that as soon as the Regiment (Col. [James] Simrals) which was brought up by the Gover-

nor to reinforce the left line arrived the Indians gave up the contest.

I have omitted to mention the name of Capt. [Angus S.] Langham, Brigade Major to Genl. Cass as one of seven or eight who pursued the enemy for several miles after the rest of the troops had halted.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Your Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secy. of War*

ARMISTICE WITH INDIANS

DETROIT Oct. 14, 1813

Har. Pa. 206, 207

Terms of an Armistice entered into between WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON *Major General in the service of the United States* and the Tribes of Indians called the MIAMIS, POTAWATOMIES, WYANDOTS, WEAS, EEL RIVER MIAMIES, OTTAWAYS, and CHIPPEWAYS

ARTICLE 1st. There shall be a suspension of hostilities between the United States and said Tribes from this day until the pleasure of the Government of the former shall be known. In the mean time the said Tribes may retire to their usual hunting grounds and there remain unmolested provided they behave themselves peacebly.

ARTICLE 2nd. In the event of any murder or other depredation, being committed upon any of the citizens of the United States by any of the other Tribes of Indians, those who are parties to these presents, shall immediately unite their efforts to punish the offenders.

ARTICLE 3rd. Hostages shall be given by said Tribes who shall be sent into the Settlements and there remain, until the termination of all the differences with the United States and said Tribes by a Council to be held for that purpose.

ARTICLE 4th. All the prisoners in the possession of said Tribes, shall be immediately brought to Fort Wayne or some other post, and delivered to the Commanding officer.

Done at Detroit this 14th day of October 1813 and of the Independence of the United States the thirty eighth.

In testimony whereof the said Major General and the Chiefs representing said Tribes here present, set their hands and affix their seals.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

Witnesses

LEWIS CASS, *Brig. Gen. Army U. S.*...
WM. P. ANDERSON *Col. 24th Reg. Inft.*
JOHN MILLER *Col. 19 Reg. Inft.*.....
E. P. GAINES *Adjt. General*.....
D. TRIMBLE *A.D. Camp to the Major General*.....

R. D. RICHARDSON *D. Com of Ordnance*.....
B. F. STICKNEY *Indian Agent*.....
ROBERT ABBOTT *French Interpreter*..
WILLIAM CONNER, *Delaware Interpreter*

J. BTS. CHANDONNAE, *Potawatomie Interpreter*.....
DUCHOUQUIT, *Shawnee Interpreter*...
LOUIS BEAUFAIT, *Taway & Chipeway Interpreter*.....

JOHN WALKER, *Wyandot Interpreter*..

a true copy C. S. TODD *Extra Aid de Camp.*

Potawatimies:
TOBINIBEE his X mark
MAGONAGO his X mark
WAGISHGOMET his X mark
LAMANPOCH his X mark
ONOCKSA his X mark
CONQEE
MESHEWA

Miamis:
POCANNA his X mark
OSAGE his X mark
WONKEMA his X mark

RETONGA his X mark or Charley Chief of the Eel River Miamis

Weas:
NEWA SHOSA or STONE EATER his X mark
PAPAHONGUA or LAPOUSUR his X mark

Potawatimies:
CHAWKAWBE his X mark
SHECOHA his X mark
JEAN BST. RCHVILLE his X mark

Chippeways & Taways:
MASH KE MAN his X mark
TONE HAD GONE OR THE DOG his Xmark
OTISH QUOI GONAIM his X mark
O TAPON his X mark
APAGONA his X mark
O CO NONGOWSY his X mark
WAITAISHOO NA WA his X mark
AWASHO QUI JUK his X mark
KIT TWA WIOTUM his X mark
KOW BE MISCOBEO his X mark
WA-GAW his X mark
PASH-KIESH QUASH ROM his X mark
O GU-BONAWKE his X mark
PON-TI-ACK queen of the Tawas and Ottoways her X mark
KENOSAMIA or OTTER his X mark

CHEPE or (?) his X mark
POMA GWAMO or THUNDER his X mark
Wyandots { MAYAR or WALK IN THE WATER his X mark
ROSURAHOR or ARMEWAS his X mark
TAHHON of HOATA his X mark
ORORY MIAH his X mark

A PROCLAMATION

DETROIT Oct. 16, 1813

Niles' Register, V, 215

An Armistice [see above, Oct. 14] having been concluded between the United States and the tribes of Indians called Miamies, Potawatamies, Eel river Miamies, Weas, Ottoways, Chippeways, and Wyandots, to continue until the pleasure of the government of the former shall be known; I do hereby make known the same to all whom it may concern. The armistice is preparatory to a general council, to be held with these different tribes; and, until its termination, they have been permitted to retire to their hunting-grounds, and there to remain unmolested, if they behave themselves peaceably. They have surrendered into our hands hostages from each tribe; and have agreed immediately to restore all our prisoners in their possession, and unite with us in the chastisement of any Indians who may commit any aggression upon our frontiers. Under these circumstances, I exhort all citizens living upon the frontiers to respect the terms of said armistice, and neither to engage in nor countenance any expedition against their person or property; leaving to the government, with whom the constitution has left it, to pursue such course, with respect to the Indians as they may think most compatible with sound policy and the best interests of the country.

WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 94.)

Head Quarters DETROIT 16th October 1813

Har. Pa. 193-195

SIR:

A detachment of the army under the command of Brig. Genl. [Duncan] McArthur has been for some days waiting at this place, for the necessary provisions to proceed to Lake

Michigan. I am sorry to inform you however that from the effects of a violent storm there is now no prospect of accomplishing that desirable object the reduction of Michillimackinac this season. It is with the greatest regret I inform you that it is almost reduced to a certainty that two of our schooners have been lost on Lake Erie the "Chippewa" and "Ohio" the former loaded with the baggage of the Troops from Bass Island, the latter with flour and salt provisions from Cleveland. Our whole stock of the latter on hand at this place is forty barrels nor is there a possibility of obtaining a supply for a considerable time as the "Ohio" contained nearly the whole of the contractors stock of that article. Upon a consultation with the two Brigadiers and Commodore Perry and Capt. [Jesse D.] Elliott, it was unanimously determined that the season is too far advanced to attempt an expedition to Maccinac if it were not commenced in two or three days and there was no hope of the supplies being obtained in that time.

It is generally believed here that Genl. Proctor dispatched an order to the Commanding officer at Macinac to destroy the post and retreat by the way of Grand River at any rate it is not a matter of much importance to have that place in our possession during the winter, cut off as it is from a communication with the rest of the world.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the terms of an armistice [see Oct. 14 above] concluded with seven of the late hostile Tribes of Indians. I have no doubt of the sincerity of their repentance excepting perhaps the celebrated Main Poke and of him I judge only from the former inveteracy of his hate. I have promised the Tribes, that remained faithful to us that their annuities shall be sent them; they deserve them and I am obliged also to promise the late Hostile Tribes that they shall receive occasional supplies of provisions. Unless this is done they must plunder the inhabitants which will again produce hostilities.

I have received no instructions from the war office for several months and I am much at a loss to know what is expected from me.

I have the Honour to be with great respect Sir

Yr. Humb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Secy. of War

P. S. The late storm has deprived us of a great deal of valuable property taken from the enemy. A small schooner laded with camp equipage ordnance and ordnance stores and several boats were abandoned by them and I fear that very few of the articles will be recovered but all the artillery taken in the field is safe. I greatly fear too some of the prisoners may have escaped, they were under a militia guard and were scattered for several miles as I am informed. However I believe that we shall be able to muster six hundred exclusively of the officers. W. H. H.

A Proclamation

Sandwich Oct 17, 1813

Niles' Register V, 215

Whereas, by the combined operations of the land and naval forces under our command, those of the enemy within the upper district of Upper Canada have been captured or destroyed, and the said district is now in the quiet possession of our troops; it becomes necessary to provide for its government: *Therefore,* we do hereby proclaim and make known, that the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, and the laws and customs of the country, as they existed or were in force at the period of our arrival, shall continue to prevail. All magistrates and other civil officers are to resume the exercise of their functions; previously taking oath to be faithful to the government of the United States, as long as they shall be in possession of the country. The authority of all militia commissions is suspended, in said district and the officers required to give their parols, in such way as the officer, who may be appointed by the commanding general to administer the government, shall direct.

The inhabitants of said district are promised protection to their persons and property, with the exception of those cases embraced by the proclamation of general Proctor, of the [?] ult. which is declared to be in force, and the powers, therein assumed transferred to the officer appointed to administer the government.

Wm. H. Harrison
Oliver H. Perry

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 95

Head Quarters DETROIT Oct. 17th 1813

Har. Pa. 197-204

SIR:

Among the papers which were taken on the 5th Inst. [illegible] to the [illegible] is a letter from Edward Bayne (adjutant genl. to Sir George Provost) to Major Genl. Proctor a copy of which I have the honor to inclose to your address.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Sir your Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Head Quarters KINGSTON 18th Sept. 1813

SIR:

In the letter which I had the honor of addressing you on the 16th Inst. I informed you that I had by order of the commander of the Forces, on that day announced to Major Genl. De Rottenburg that considerations of a publick nature would induce his Excellency to remove his Head Quarters to Montreal about the middle of this month.

I was at the same time instructed to acquaint the Major Genl. Commanding that his Excellency confided in his judgment and discretion to determine how far it would be prudent to continue to contend against the increasing evils and difficulties with which the centre and Right Divisions have to struggle. This important decision must in a great measure depend on the issue of impending events of the campaign which cannot be much longer procrastinated. It is very much to be regreted that a decisive action between the two squadrons on the Lake Ontario has been so long delayed, and has unavoidably entailed upon the army a corresponding state of inaction and in a great degree involved it in the very critical state in which it is now placed. As on the issue of that all important event the ulterior operations of the army campaign have been necessarily suspended, for offensive military operations presented little prospect of being prosecuted with success without the aid and cooperation and more particularly the protection to be derived from a superior maratime force. At the same time it would have been highly impolitic to have anticipated the failure of that support and by adopting measures of precaution to have relinquished one foot of the ground on which we so proudly stand. Such a measure would have

lost us all our wavering friends and would have proved distructive to our Indian alliance.

The superior resources of the enemy have indeed enabled him to render our situation critical and difficult but it still does not yet amount to that point as to render a retrograde movement indispensible and untill that is the case it should be avoided by every possible exertion and devise.

Should however such a measure become unfortunately unavoidable, it is his Excellency's express Commands that it be not resorted to untill its necessity and the mode of carrying it into effect has been previously well weighed and considered and all necessary arrangements made. That under every circumstance it be conducted with order and regularity. His Excellency trusts that the Advanced divisions of the army are not incumbered with heavy or superfluous baggage. No considerations of that nature is to be suffered to impede the march of the troops for one single moment. The removal of all sick and convalesents must be previously provided for. Every position which the country affords is to be occupied and defended so that the enemy be made to pay dearly for every step he advances. All retrograde movements are to be resorted to with reluctance and they are to be as limited as the circumstances which cause them will admit and they are never to be hurried or accelerated unless warranted by circumstances of peculiar urgency.

Should your situation become desperate you are recommended to adopt a line of conduct suitable to the urgency of the case and as every thing must be sacraficed by a retrograde movement you will exaust every resource and means within your power before you resort to that measure. This policy particularly applies to the Marine Force and you will therefore impress upon Capt. Barclay in whose zeal talents and determined Fortitude the commander of the Forces has the most firm reliance, that the squadron under his command, being inevitably involved in the common fate of the Military Positions on Lake Erie, is to be devoted to their preservation, and if necessary, sacraficed to the last atom. Sooner than a vestage be left to swell the pride of an arrogant Foe and you will be careful on your part, that nothing that can be in any way useful to the Enemy, be suffered to fall into his hands. His Excellency looks with confidence to your exertions that

every injury and annoyance which it is possible for the combined discipline and Gallantry of the Forces under your Command to perform will be called forth to cripple and repulse the enemy.

His Excellency is particularly solicitous, that the relative dependence and mutual support that exists between the Centre and right divisions may never be lost sight of. He recommends that every attention and exertion be made to keep the communication open both by land and water and that a perfect understanding prevail, of the relative state, plans and occurrances of each division in as far as they may influence the operations of the other exist. With this view his Excellency has been pleased to sanction Major Genl. DeRothenburg opening any publick dispatch to his address from you under circumstances of Emergency that you may not be able to report officially seperately to the Major Genl. in order that your wants may meet with prompt relief when circumstances admit of his affording it to you.

Commodore Sir James Yeo returned here on Thursday last. His third Cruise I regret to say has notbeen marked with any advantage whatever on our part. A great deal of manouvering attended with distant cannonading in which the Enemy being favoured by the wind had probably the advantage. Four of our men were killed and I believe about the same number wounded. The commander sails again this evening with the Squadron and will afford convoy to all the small vessels with stores. If it is deemed elegible a propcsed attack will be made on the Enemy's position at Fort George previous to Major General DeRothenburg getting that occupied by his division, which from the local defect it is exposed to, and the very harrasing duties intailed upon the Troops has introduces among them, disease and desertion to a very great degree.

I envelop a letter which I have received from Major McPherson commanding the 10th Royal Veterans Battalion, and you are requested to make the best arrangements, and afford such relief as is in your power.

I have the Honor to be Sir, Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant

EDWARD BAYNES, *Adgt. General*

Major Genl. PROCTOR, *Com'd the Right Division*

A True Copy. D. TRIMBLE *A. DeCamp*

General Orders

Montreal, October 18th, 1813.

Historical Register II, 605

The commander of the forces has the deepest regret in announcing to the army, that lieutenant Reiffenstein, a staff-adjutant, arrived yesterday, and is the bearer of the following unpleasant intelligence. That major-general Proctor having sustained, by the unfortunate capture of the squadron on Lake Erie, the loss of a very considerable portion of his military force, which was serving on board that fleet, as well as the principal heavy ordinance necessary for the defence of his military positions, commenced his retreat from the fort of Sandwich on the 24th September, having previously dismantled the posts of Amherstburg and Detroit, and burned and destroyed every public building and stores of every description.

The retreating regular force consisting of a small detachment of royal artillery, a troop of provincial dragoons, and the remains of the 41st regiment, in all about 450 rank and file—which was accompanied by a body of Indian warriors from 1000 to 1500.

The enemy's fleet and army appeared off Amherstburg on the 26th September, and landed on the following day, but soon re-embarked their troops and proceeded by Lake St. Clair, to the mouth of the Thames river. The American army was again landed, and accompanied by gun-boats, followed the route of major-general Proctor's corps, which having been much retarded by the slow progress of loaded batteaux, they were enabled to come up with the rear guard and loaded boats on the 3d instant, and succeeded in capturing the whole. Major-general Proctor being thus deprived of the means of supporting his little army, was under the necessity of awaiting the enemy's attack; which took place at 4 o'clock on the evening of the 5th instant, near the Moravian village.

A six-pounder on the flank was, by some unpardonable neglect, left destitute of ammunition, and the enemy, availing himself of this unfortunate circumstance, pressed upon that part of the line, which, wanting the support of artillery, was forced by the superior numbers of the enemy. Major-general Proctor exerted himself to rally the troops, who being exhausted with fatigue, not having received any provisions the

preceding day, were unable to make adequate exertions to resist the superior numbers by which they were assailed.

The safety of major-general Proctor, the officers of his personal staff, and some few others, together with about 50 men has only as yet been ascertained. The Indian warriors retreated towards Mackedash.

The enemy's forces employed on this service is estimated from 10 to 12,000 strong, including troops of every description.

EDWARD BAYNES, *Adj. Gen.*

PETITION

DETROIT Oct 19, 1813

Har. Pa. 208-210

To his Excellency Brigader General LEWIS CASS commanding the United States Troops, at Detroit.

The Petition of the citizens of the United States, of the District of Erie and Territory of Michigan

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

The distressed farmers and settlers of the river Raisin, citizens of the United States, who have been drove from their homes since the month of January last, by the ferocious savages under the influence and direction of the British Government, and of whom a list accompanies the present, have appointed the subscribers a committee to represent to you their services and present disastrous situation, in full confidence from your Excellency's known philanthrophy, that you will take their peculiar case into your excellency's paternal consideration.

A short time before accounts of the declaration of war, with England reached this country, the citizens of Erie were called upon, by the local Government for a draft from the Militia for one company to be put into actual service; but the partiotism of this section of the country all volunteered their services to the General Government, to a man, and they proceeded to elect their own officers and organized the required quota; (independent of the Volunteers who joined the cavalry under the command of Capt. Richard Smith of Detroit, and were posted at the river Raisin as a detachment to protect the settlement and escort the mails to Detroit—most hazardous services).

Shortly after, owing to the egregious misconduct of Gen. Hull the savages joined the British, who excited them against that exposed section of the Territory, in consequence of which, the whole were called into service, and did actual duty in the Fort at the River Raisin, and in patroling parties in the vicinity, until accounts were received of the infamous capitulation at Detroit, by a British flag of truce, followed up by a band of savages, who generally plundered their private property, stole or wantonly destroyed their cattle and horses, in a most cruel manner; which was arrested only by the arrival of a detachment of the United States troops under the command of that brave veteran, Col. [William] Lewis who was immediately joined by a number of our Raisin citizens, aiding in the first victory, several of whom were afterwards slain in the last battle where a scene the most shocking to humanity, impossible to be pourtrayed by us, was perpetrated on the unfortunate prisoners of war who had surrendered on the word of General Proctor that they would be protected from the savages—but, where in the dwelling houses of Messrs. [Hubert] LaCroix, [Georgé] McDougall, [Gabriel] Godfroy, and [Jean Baptiste] Conture (where the United States Detachment had intrenched themselves) they were cruelly mangled, and thrown alive in those buildings, which were purposely set on fire to conflagrate the unfortunate wounded. Others being left in the vicinity exposed on the roads to be eat up by the Hogs and Dogs!!!—*and not allowed to be interred*—and where their bones have lain exposed until lately, when through the auspicious bravery of the United States forces our appressors have been taken, or driven out of the country and the savages compelled to implore the clemency of the General Government. We beg leave to be excused for this painful digression, to return to the forlorn state of the settlement. The Indians, being irritated at the inhabitants for the active part they had taken against them, plundered and abused them afresh, several having made their escape towards the army at Fort Meigs and Sandusky, and the remainder driven from their homes to Detroit, where they have generally languished in poverty and distress, suffering, even here, every outrage from the savage barbarians. Deprived of all sustenance and famine staring them in the face, they confidently look up to *their country* for support, during the ensuing inclement season, inasmuch, as

they have never been renumerated, and have sacrificed their all in her service; humbly trusting that your Excellency will have compassion on their indigent state, and grant them immediate support, by a supply of provisions and ammunition and that your Excellency would be pleased to make a representation of their deplorable state to the President, and Congress of the United States, to grant them such relief in the premises as their wisdom may deem meet and as in duty bound the settlement of Erie will ever pray.

JOHN ANDERSON
GEO. MCDOUGALL
G. GODFROY

A Copy C. A. NORTON, *Aid-de-Camp*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

SACKETT'S HARBOUR 20th October 1813

Har. Pa. 91, 92

SIR:

The enemy's corps before fort George broke up their cantonments on the 9th and marched rapidly for Burlington Bay which he reached on the 11th. By taking this route he may intend to reinforce Proctor on the French River or Kingston at the head of the St. Lawrence. He was apprised of the abandonment of Malden on the 5th.

We are perhaps too remote to profit by each others suggestions. But it does not appear to me that Sandwich is the point at which Proctor will stop, if you pursue him. From point aux Pins on lake Erie there is a good road to Chatham on the Thames. The Distance not more than twenty-four miles. Were this gained and travelled back to Sandwich the enemy's means of subsistence might be destroyed and himself compelled to surrender. But of the practicability of this you are the best judge. My opinion is suggested by the Map.

The first Division of this army sailed two days ago—the 2nd and the reserve follow today.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 96

HEAD QUARTERS, ERIE PA. 22nd Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 211, 212

SIR:

Soon after my letter to you of the 16th Inst. [see above]

was written, I was informed that a special messenger with dispatches from you had left Bass Island in the schooner Chippewa which had been driven from the mouth of the Detroit River in a violent storm and from the circumstance of a quantity of baggage belonging to the officers which was known to have been on board being found on the lake Shore. She was believed to have been lost. As I had nearly completed the arangement for a suspension of hostilities with the Indians, although I had no information as to the movement of the army on Lake Ontario, I determined to embark Genl. McArthur's Brigade and the batallion of U. States Riflemen and proceed with them down the lake until I could receive some certain information of the movements of the army under Genl. Wilkinson and what was expected from me. I arrived here this morning with Commodor Perry in the ariel having left the remainder of the fleet at Bass Island, it is probable they will be here this evening when we shall immediately proceed to Buffaloe. I have learnt that the Chippewa was not lost as was supposed at the upper end of the Lake but is on shore near to Buffaloe where the unfortunate messenger is said to have perished in endeavoring to reach the shore.

I have not above eleven hundred men with me.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Sir Your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 97

Head Quarters BUFFALOE, N. Y. Oct. 24th 1813

Har. Pa. 213, 214

SIR:

I have this moment landed at this place, from on board of the Schooner Ariel which is one of the several vessels, with which I left Detroit, having on board the greater part of McArthur's Brigade and the detachment of the U. States Rifle Regiment under Col. [Thomas] Smith. The other vessels are all I believe in sight and will be up in a short time. The aggregate number of Troops with me is about thirteen hundred but not more than one thousand fit for duty. Before this reaches you, you will no doubt be informed of the loss of your Messenger Capt. Brown, with the dispatches that were en-

trusted with him. Not having received your directions and being entirely ignorant of the state of our military operations in this quarter, I was much at a loss to know how to proceed but believing that Genl. Cass with his Brigade would be able to secure Detroit and our adjacent Conquests, after having concluded an armistice with the greater part of the Hostile Tribes, I concluded that I could not do better than to move down the Lake with the remaining part of the Troops. A part of McArthur's brigade is still at the Bass Islands where they were left for the want of the means of conveyance, and a considerable portion of their baggage was also left from the same cause. Means have however been taken to collect and bring them on.

I shall move down the Troops immediately to Fort George where I shall await your orders unless an opportunity should previously occur of striking at the enemy the information I have received here of the situation and movements of the enemy on the Head of the Lake Ontario is vague and contradictory. I propose to send off my adjutant General Col. [Edmund P.] Gaines to see you in the morning, if his state of health will allow it.

Presuming that my official dispatches from Detroit via Washington must have reached you, I scarcely need add that on the 5th Instant, I was fortunate enough to overtake Genl. Proctor and after a short action to capture upwards of Six hundred of his regulars and to defeat and disperse his Indian force.

I have the honor to be with great Respect
Sir Your Humble Servant.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq.

P. S. I have promised the bearer that you will reward him in proportion to the exertion he makes to deliver you this. It is now 2 o'clock P. M. W. H. H.

HARRISON TO GEN. VINCENT

Head-Quarters FORT GEORGE 3rd Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 218-223

SIR:

Lieutenant LeBreton, an officer in your service, arrived at Detroit on the 15th Ultimo, bearing a flag and a letter to me

from General Proctor, requesting humane treatment for the prisoners in my possession and the restoration of private property and papers. This letter was directed to me at the Moravian Towns and as the subject was not of the importance to authorize the Lieutenant pursuing me to Detroit, I was somewhat surprised at his doing so. It did not appear proper to permit him to return in that way and as I was upon the point of setting out for this frontier by water, I conceived that that mode of conveyance would be fully as agreable to him and would enable him to meet General Proctor as expeditiously as by the land route. I regret that badness of the weather and other causes which he will explain has detained him until this time.

Understanding that you are the senior officer I have determined to address my answer to you. With respect to the subject of General Proctor's letter, those which I have the honor to enclose you from the British officers, who were taken on the 5th ultimo to their friends and the reports of Lt. LeBreton will satisfy you, that no indulgence which humanity could claim in their favor or the usages of War sanction has been withheld. The disposition of the property taken on the field of action or near it, was left to the commanding officer at Detroit. The instructions given to this gentleman and the well known integrity and generosity of his character will insure to the claimants the utmost justice and liberality in his decisions. In making this statement, I wish it however to be distinctly understood that my conduct with regard to the prisoners and the property taken has been dictated solely by motives of humanity and not by a belief that it could be claimed upon the score of reciprocity of treatment towards the American prisoners, who have fallen into the hands of General Proctor. The unhappy persons of that description who have excaped from the tomahawks of the savages in the employment of the British Government, under the immediate orders of that Officer, have suffered all the indignities and deprivations which human nature is capable of supporting. There is no single instance that I have heard of in which the property of the Officers has been respected. But I am far from believing that the conduct of General Proctor has been thought an example worthy imitation by the greater part of the British officers and in the Character of General Vincent I have a pledge that he will unite his exertions with mine to soften

as much as possible the fate of those whom the fortune of War may reciprocally place in our power.

But Sir, there is another subject upon which I wish an explicit declaration. Will the Indians who still adhere to the cause of his Brittanic Majesty be suffered to continue that horrible species of warfare which they have heretofore practised against our Troops and those still more horrible depredations upon the peaceble inhabitants of our frontiers? I have sufficient evidence to show that the latter have not always been perpetrated by small parties of vagrant Indians acting at a distance from the British army. Some of the most atrocious instances having occurred under the very eyes of the British Commander and the Head of the Indian Department. I shall pass by the tragedy of the River Raisin and that equally well known which was enacted at the Miami River after the defeat of Col. [William] Dudley and select three other instances of savage barbarity committed under the auspices of General Proctor.

In the beginning of June last a small party of Indians conducted by an Ottawa chief, who I believe is now with the British Army under your command, left Malden in bark canoes in which they coasted lake Erie to the mouth of Portage river, the canoes were taken across the portage to Sandusky bay, across which, the party proceeded to the mouth of Cold Creek and from thence by land to the settlements upon that creek where they captured three families consisting of one man and twelve women and children. After taking the prisoners some distance, one of the women was discovered to be unable to keep up with them in consequence of her advanced state of pregnancy. She was immediately tomahawked, stripped naked, her womb ripped open and the child taken out. Three or four of the children were successively butchered as they discovered their inability to keep up with the party. Upon the arrival of the Indians at Malden, two or three of the prisoners were ransomed by Col. Elliott and the others by the citizens of Detroit, where they remained until they were taken off by their friends upon the capture of that place by our army. *I have been informed that the savage Chief received from Col. Elliott a repremand for his cruelty.*

On the 29th or 30th of the same month, a large party of Indians were sent from Malden on a War Expedition to Lower

Sandusky. At a farm house near to that place they murdered the whole family consisting of a man, his wife son and daughter.

During the last attack upon Fort Meigs by General Proctor a party, headed by a Seneca, (an intimate friend of Tecumseh's) was sent to endeavor to detach from our interest the savages of Wapokonata. In their way hither they murdered several men and one woman who was working in her cornfield.

I have selected, Sir, the above from a long list of similar instances of barbarity which the history of the last 15 months could furnish because they were perpetrated if not in view of the British commander and by parties who came immediately from his company and returned to it. Who ever received their daily support from the King's Stores and who in fact (as the documents in my possession show) formed part of his army. To retaliate these upon the subjects of the King would have been justifiable by the Laws of War and by the usages of the most civilized nations. The tide of fortune has changed in our favour and an extensive and flourishing province opened to our army. Nor have instruments of vengence been wanting. The savages who have sued to us for mercy would gladly have shown their claims to it by reacting upon the Thames, the bloody scenes of Sandusky and Cold Creek. A single sign of approbation would have been sufficient to pour upon the subjects of the King their whole fury. The future conduct of the British officers will determine the correctness of mine in withholding it. If the savages should be again let loose upon our settlements I shall with justice be accused of having sacrificed the interest and honour of my country and the lives of my fellow citizens to feeling of false and mistaken Humanity. You are a soldier Sir, and as I sincerely believe possess all those honorable sentiments which ought always to be found in men who follow the profession of arms. Use then I pray you your authority and influence to stop that dreadful effusion of innocent blood which proceeds from the employment of those savage monsters whose aide (as must now be discovered) is so little to be depended upon when it is most wanted and which can have so trifling an effect upon the issue of the War. The effect of their barbarity will not be confined to the present generation. Ages yet to come will feel the effect

of the deep-rooted hatred and enmity which they must produce between the two Nations. I deprecate most sincerely the dreadful alternative which will be offered to me should they be continued, but I do most solemly declare that if the Indians that remain under the influence of the British Government are suffered to commit any depredations upon the citizen within the district that is committed to my protection, I will remove the restrictions which have been imposed upon those who offered their services to the United States and direct them to carry on the war in their own way. I have never heard a single excuse for the employment of the Savages by your Government unless we can credit the story of some British Officer having dared to assert that "as we employed the Kentuckians you had a right to make use of the Indians". If such injurious sentiments have really prevailed to the prejudice of a brave, well informed and virtuous people, it will be removed by the representations of your officers, who were lately taken upon the River Thames. They will inform you Sir, that so far from offering any violence to the persons of their prisoners, "these Savages" would not permit a word to escape them, which was calculated to wound or insult their feelings, and this too, with the sufferings of their friends and relatives at the River Raisin and Miami fresh upon their recollection.

I have the honor to be Sir, your very Humble Servant

Signed WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Maj. Gen. VINCENT *Commanding British Forces*
BURLINGTON HEIGHTS

P. S. I pledge myself for the truth of the above in relation to the murders committed by the Indians.

W. H. H.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

BOONSVILLE 3d Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 93, 94

DEAR GENERAL

I have fortunately met Colonel [E. P.] Gaines on the way to his Regt. The Deputy Paymaster should have orders to attend to the Brigade you have brought with you. Capt. [Robert] Butler will act as your asst. adjutant general and

shall receive an appointment as such. The officers of the several corps composing your Division, (as well those at fort George as General Cass's Brigade) not indispensable to the command of the troops now in the field should be immediately dispatched on the recruiting service. I need not invite your attention to a subject so important to the early and successful opening of the next campaign and to the extent and character of your particular command. Will the whole of Cass's brigade be wanted to the Westward? In the event of a peace with the savages a less force would be sufficient and to hasten and secure this event, the present moment and present impression must be seized. Of the warriors sueing for peace one or more should be sent by the nearest route and by the most expeditious mode to the Creek nation. The story of their defeat by you and subsequent abandonment by the British communicated by themselves would probably have a decisive effect on their red brethren of the South and save us the trouble and expense of beating them into a sense of their own interest. When I wrote to you from Wilna it was doubtful whether our attack would be made directly upon Kingston or upon Montreal. Reasons exist for prefering the latter course and have probably determined General Wilkinson to go down the St. Lawrence. In this case the enemy will have at Kingston, besides his fleet, a garrison of 12 or 1400 men. Had we not a corps in the neighborhood these might do mischief and even render insecure the winter station of our fleet. To prevent this (and when the frost has bridged the St. Lawrence to do more) it is deemed advisable to draw together at Sackett's Harbour a considerable military force. There are now at that post between four and five hundred men of all descriptions—sick, convalescent and effective. Colonel [Winfield] Scot's detachment (about 700) are on their march thither, and it is barely possible that Colonel [Thomas Mann] Randolph's (not arriving in time to move with the army) may be there also. This does not exceed 350. McArthur's Brigade added to these will make a force entirely competent to our objects. To bring this Brigade down the Lake you must have the aid of the fleet which will be readily given by Commodore [Isaac] Chauncey. On this point I shall write to him and suggest a communication with you in relation to it. This new disposition will render necessary the employment of so many of

the militia and volunteers now in service under General [George] McClure as you may deem competent to the safe keeping of Forts George and Niagara and their dependencies. It is not intended by these instructions to prevent either you or General McArthur from visiting your families or from going directly to them, if you so desire, from Fort George. In this case the command will devolve on Colonel [Alexander] Smith. To Genl. McArthur I would however barely suggest that I shall on my arrival at Albany institute a Court Martial for the trial of Hull—the court to sit at that place—and that in this event, it might be more convenient for the General to be at Sackett's Harbour. By the way this suggests also the necessity of immediately relieving General Cass (whose presence as a witness will be indispensable) and making such dispositions with regard to Majors [David] Tremble, [Thomas S.] Jessup and etc. as will best and most easily combine the public object with their personal convenience.

P. S. For the better accommodation of the troops it may be well to leave 500 of them at Oswego. They will there find good Barracks for that number and may be brought to Sackett's Harbour in a single day. The contractor ought to be apprised of the arrangement.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Headquarters, NEWARK 8th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 215-217

SIR:

I had last evening the Honor to receive your favor of the 30th ultimo. The enemy are still at the Head of Burlington Bay but my utmost exertion to effect it, have not been sufficient to obtain such information as I can rely upon, in relation to their number or intentions. The necessity of driving them from thence was so apparent that I dispatched orders from Buffaloe on the 28th Ult. to General Cass to join me immediately with his Brigade and to General [John] Gano of the Ohio Militia to take the command at Detroit. Unluckily the vessel which took the order, was driven back and forced on shore at Buffaloe with three others. The dispatch to General Cass and another to Capt. [Jesse D.] Elliott, who now commands the vessels on Lake Erie were forwarded by land

to Erie. The Captain has declined the employment of any of his vessels but the five Gun boats and a schooner, for the transportation of the troops. Of these, one is on shore at Buffaloe and two are lying in the Head of Niagara River. As from these circumstances I could not calculate upon the arrival of Gen Cass time enough to assist in the operation against Burlington, I have countermanded the order for his coming down. General [George] McClure having informed me that he had authority to call for Militia from the neighouring counties of New York, I have directed him to call out one thousand and I have employed Gen. [Peter Buel] Porter and Col. Chapin to raise Volunteers, the whole to serve for one month after their arrival here. I have the honor to enclose you, returns of the regular troops and of General McClure's command. As the enemy must have at least one thousand Indians, you will, I am persuaded, agree with me as to the necessity of calling out an additional Militia force. It is much to be regretted that Col. [Winfield] Scott did not remain here with his command. With those I should not have hesitated to have advanced upon General Vincent. I still hope to be able to effect his removal. I shall have no doubt of it, if I can infuse into the New York Militia, the spirit that animates those from Kentucky. Every exertion is made to restore the health of the regular Soldiers but notwithstanding they are in good quarters and are well provided for, the number of sick has increased almost daily. A very considerable number are however convalescent.

The expedition to the Head of the Lake would be necessary to destroy the subsistence upon the road leading to the Thames to prevent the enemy from making any attempts to regain the upper province in that direction, in the event of their keeping possession of York. I found at Fort Niagara a sufficiency of many articles of clothing for my men, but they are in great want of Woollen overalls, some blankets, and stockings will be wanted also. May I hope that some of these articles will be forwarded immediately.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter received from General Proctor [see Oct. 8 above] by a flag before I left Detroit together with my answer directed to General Vincent. [Nov. 3 above] I thought the opportunity a good one, to bring forward the subject of Indian depredations.

Since I began this letter, a decent, respectable looking young man has arrived, who says he is a Sergeant in the Glengary Regiment and deserted in consequence of his having been disappointed of promised promotion. I enclose you a copy of his examination taken before General's McArthur and McClure [following]. The number of Indians is certainly exaggerated, but I do not believe that the amount of Regulars is much under what he makes them. As you will be possessed of all the information that I have upon the subject, I should like to receive your directions. Shall I advance upon the enemy if I can obtain one thousand additional Militia after leaving three hundred men in each of the Garrisons I shall then be enabled to march something upwards of two thousand.

I have the honor to be with High Respect and Consideration
Sir Your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

Examination of CHARLES JOHNSTON, A Deserter from the British Army

Har. Pa. 225

He belonged to the Glengary Regiment, left Burlington on the 7th at 9 o'clock acting as Assistant Provost martial that he left there, the whole of the Royal Scotch Regiment the whole of the 100th, the light company of the 8th and the remaining part of the 41st about 150 or 60 Dragoons. The light company of the Scotch Royals arrived a few days before he left Burlington. He believed that the whole of the forces amounted to 2000 regulars and 2000 Indians. They have a very large supply of provisions flour and pickled pork—part of which, they have been sending to York that a large quantity of presents were distributed amongst the Indians on Friday last. That he then saw them together and believes that there were 2000 warriors, that the Indians who escaped from the Battle of the Thames are all there, that the Prophet had appointed a succesor to his Brother Tecumseh who was killed in said battle.

Gen. Vincent to Harrison

Head Quarters Burlington Heights 10th November, 1813

Har. Pa. 230-232

Sir:

Lieut. LeBreton having delivered your letter of the 3rd inst. [see above] I have directed Capt. Merritt of the Provincial Dragoons to proceed with a Flag to Fort George as the Bearer of this acknowledgement of your obliging communication.

The account given of the British officers whom the fortune of War has lately placed at the disposal of the United States, is such as cannot fail affording very consoling reflections to this army and their anxious friends.

Tho you must be sensible that there are several points in your letter respecting which it is wholly beyond my power to afford you the satisfaction of an explicit declaration, yet be assured Sir I shall never feel the smallest degree of hesitation in joining you in any pledge, that it will ever be my anxious wish and endeavour to alleviate as much as possible the fate of those who may fall into my power by the chances of war.

Believe me Sir, I deprecate as strongly as yourself the perpetration of acts of cruelty committed under any pretext, and I shall lament equally with yourself that any state of things should produce them. No efforts of mine will be ever wanting to diminish the evils of a state of warfare, as far as may be consistent with the duties which are due to my King and Country.

The Indian when acting in conjunction with the Troops under my command, has been invariabley exhorted to mercy, and have never been deaf to my anxious entreaties on this interesting subject.

I shall not fail to transmit the original of your letter to the Lower Province for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. I feel particularly anxious to be made acquainted with your instructions relative to the disposal of the gallent and truly unfortunate Captain Barclay, whose wounds I lament to hear are such as to preclude all hope of his being ever again able to resume the honourable duties of his station. Under these circumstances I am induced to rely on your liberality and generous interferance to

obtain a release or parole that he may be allowed the indulgence of immediately proceeding to the Lower Province.

I have the Honor to be
your very Obeidient Servant
JOHN VINCENT *M. General*

His Excellency Major Gen. HARRISON
A true Copy JOHN O'FALLON *A. D. C.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 99)

Head Quarters, NEWARK 11th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 225-228

SIR:

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 3d inst. the day before yesterday. [see above]

I fear there has been some mistake in relation to the period of service for which the Militia under General [George] McClure was called out. He says that it was for three months only and that the term of the whole will expire in three or four weeks. If that is the case and the Regular Troops are sent off Fort George will be left without defence unless a new draft is made immediately. General McClure has called for 1000 men from the two adjoining counties but they were called for one month only. I suppose however that as they are drafted men, the authority of the Governor would be sufficient to oblige them to stay. But the great difficulty will be in getting them to remain on this side or even to come over at all, when they discover that they are to be retained for three months. I give you this information, supposing that it might produce a countermand of the order for sending McArthur's brigade below. I should not think it safe, to bring Cass's brigade from Detroit at present. It was my intention, if my first order for their coming had been successful, to have sent them back from Long point after having visited Burligton. [George] Dixon passed up from York some time since, with a very large quantity of goods. It is possible that he may be able to induce the Potawatomes, Chippewas and Ottawas again to commence hostility. I am however, pretty confident that with a little attention and address, it may be prevented and perfect tranquility restored to the Western Country, which would enable the Government to use the whole of the resources of that country in the lower part of Canada. Within a few months

after security is given to the frontiers, our Treasury will receive the whole of the large sums which have been expended in that District back again for lands. There is much delicacy and some dificulty in determining what course is to be taken with the hostile Indians. Unless they are treated with some forbearance at first, they will conceive their situation so bad as to induce them to adopt some desperate course.

Before I received your letter I was well aware of the necessity of my returning to the Westward or having some person there, vested with general powers for the command of the District. It requires immediate attention. In my former letters I have mentioned the instructions given to the commandants upon the frontiers, to supply them with small quantities of provisions and ammunition. Unless this is done, they will starve or break upon the frontiers to obtain supplies. I recommend that a supply of goods be immediately sent to the Factor at Fort Wayne. It would be extremely gratifying to me and I believe promotive of the Public Interest if I could have an interview with you. Unless I receive before I leave this some unexpected information from the West (or orders to the contrary), it is probable that I may take Washington in my route. I am accustomed to travel with so much expedition that it would make no great difference in the time of my arriving in my district.

To my great disappointment and mortification, I find that there are but 400 Cartouch boxes to be procured for the militia that are expected. If they should not have them the expedition to the Head of the Lake cannot take place. There are neither tents nor camp kettles and I fear that the Militia of this frontier will not, like the Kentuckians, do without them. I am still in the dark as to the intentions of the Enemy at the Head of the Lake. I believe that they will retire to York, but so strong were the reports, that they were advancing upon us yesterday and had reached the 40 miles Creek (30 from this) that I changed the disposition of the troops to receive an attack.

With the highest consideration
I have the honor to be Sir
your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG. Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 100)

Headquarters NEWARK 14th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 229

SIR:

I understand that volunteers are coming on in considerable numbers to join me from the neighboring counties. I should have no doubt of giving a good account of General Vincent and his army if his position were not such as precludes I fear every hope of reaching him in any other way than by regular approaches. For operations of that kind we are entirely unprepared. However, I will go up, if the force that joins me is such as is expected and will do the best I can to prevent his being troublesome in future. I have an accurate delineation of his position, and if I mistake not, it is one of the strongest in America calculated either for defence retreat or to receive reinforcements from York. Notwithstanding the utmost care and attention both of the sick and well, my effective regular force daily decreases. I shall not be able to march more than six hundred rank and file.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of General Vincents answer to my letter to him of the 3rd instant. [see Nov. 10 above]

With the highest consideration and regard
I am sir your, Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. Col. Wilcox just informed me that the enemy are building largely at York and have a considerable force there.

W. H. H.

HARRISON TO CLARKE

Head Quarters, NEWARK 15th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 236, 237

DEAR SIR:

Being ordered to the Westward you will be pleased to resume the command, which you exercised previously to my arrival on this frontier. The orders which you have heretofore receive will govern you. It will be necessary that you keep a vigilant eye over the disaffected part of the inhabitants

and I recommend that you make use of the zeal, activity and local knowledge which Col. Wilcox certainly possesses to counteract the machinations of our enemy and assure the confidence of our friends amongst the inhabitants. It will however, I am pursuaded, be your wish as it is your duty, to guard the latter as much as possible from oppression.

The volunteers which were lately called out, will be retained as long as you consider their services necessary. The drafted militia, untill further orders are received from the Sect. of War. There can be little doubt of its being the in tention of the enemy to send the greater part of the troops, which they have at Burlington and York to Kingston, and to make York the right of their line, they may however leave a small command at Burlington and these may be so securely posted as to render them safe from any desultory expedition you may set on foot but it is desirable to have any supplies which they may have collected at the Mills in the neighbourhood, destroyed, and should the success below be not such as to promise possession of the whole of the upper province, the mills may be destroyed.

Capts. [John] Leonard and [James] Reed or either of them are appointed to muster your troops when and where you may think proper.

In closing this communication, I should not do justice to my feelings, if I were not to acknowledge the zeal and talents with which you have managed your command. Your conduct appears to me to have been extremely judicious and proper throughout and your troops exhibit a State of improvement and subordination which is at once honorable to your officers and themselves.

I am very sincerely Your
friend and Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Brig. Gen. W. CLARKE

P. S.

With regard to the inhabitants of the country who have been taken up as spies or for other causes, I have been in a great degree governed by the opinions of Col. Wilcox. I recommend the same course to you, unless you should discover that it leads to an improper result. W. H. H.

McClure to Harrison

Fort George, November 15, 1813

Har. Pa. 241

Sir:

The subject of our conversation this morning has occupied my most serious reflections. The deadly blow heretofore given to the patriotism of our citizens on this frontier, have prepared them for murmurs and complaints. Those who are now on the march have left their homes and their business under great sacrifices with the certainty of being brought into action. The last address which I issued under your directions and which I am happy to find has met your approbation, gives them reason for indulging the expectation of service, and they are anxious to drive the enemy from their borders forever. The high character of Gen. Harrison, combined with these circumstances, has excited strong interest in the public mind relative to our operations.

In this peculiar situation of affairs, I feel it to be due to the gallant volunteers and militia who are assembled and collecting, and to my own reputation, most respectfully to solicit, that if it is not incompatible with your instructions and your better judgment, you will not abandon our projected expedition against Burlington Heights. Such is the anxious wish of the Militia and I have no doubt the soldiers under your command are equally if not more desirous of the employment.

My anxiety on the subject, I trust will excuse the appearance of any disrespect in making this communication which certainly is far from my feelings. My confidence in the valor, ability, and prudence of Gen. Harrison, will dispose me most cheerfully to submit to any arrangements he may be bound to make, however great may be my disappointment in their result.

I have the honor to be, Sir Your Humble Servt.

Geo. McClure

Major General Harrison

Harrison to McClure

Head Quarters, Newark Nov. 15, 1813

Har. Pa. 238, 240

Dear Sir:

Your letter to me of this morning has been received. I feel most severely the weight of the reasons which you urge for

the prosecution of the intended expedition to Burlington. The disappointment however, of the brave and patriotic men who have turned out under the expectation of serving their country effectually in the field at this inclement season is the most painful circumstance attending it, as I am well convinced from the information received this morning and last evening that the enemy are moving as fast as possible from the Head of the Lake to Kingston, which has been left with a very small part of the force that was lately there, and it is more than probable that should we advance in force the enemy having none but effective men at Burlington would destroy the stores, which they have remaining there and retreat too rapidly to be overtaken. These are considerations however which would make it extremely desirable to make an exhibition of force in that quarter. But the orders I have received from the Secretary of War leaves me no alternative.

Comodore Chauncy is extremely pressing that the troops should immediately embark, declaring that the navigation at this season to small vessels is very dangerous. The force at Sackets harbour is very small, less by one Regiment than the Secretary of War supposed it would be when he gave me the order for the embarkation of the Regular Troops that are here. The troops at York are all hastening down to Kingston. Sackets harbour may be endangered by even the delay of a few days and should the troops that are here not get down before the Lake is frozen, our fleet may be destroyed for the want of their aid. I cannot therefore, take upon myself the responsibility of delaying their going down even a day.

Will you be so obliging at the proper time as to explain the above circumstances to the Patriots who have left their homes with the intention of assisting me to drive the Enemy far from our borders, and assure them that I shall ever recollect with the warmest gratitude the partiality which they have been pleased to express for me and their preference of serving under my Command.

I will direct payment to be made to the volunteers for rations and forage in coming on.

Accept my best wishes for your health
and happiness and believe me
sincerely your friend.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 101)

Head Quarters NEWARK 16th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 234

SIR:

Comodore Chauncey with the Fleet arrived here yesterday morning and informed me that he was ready to receive the Troops to convey them down the Lake and that the season was so far advanced rendering the navigation dangerous to the smaller vessels, that it was desirable they should be embarked as expeditiously as possible. As a very small part of the militia and Volunteers had arrived and the situation of Sacketts Harbour appearing to me to require immediate reinforcement I did not think proper to take upon myself the responsibility of postponing the departure of the Troops for the Lower part of the Lake conformably to the directions contained in your letter of the 3rd Instant. The information I received yesterday from two respectable citizens that were taken near to Fort Meigs in June last and who made their escape in an open boat from Burlington confirmes me in the propriety of sending them off. These men state the troops were hurrying to Kingston from York as fast as possible. The regulars going down in boats and Militia bringing the latter back.

The troops are now all embarked and are under the command of Col. Smith who is an officer in whose capacity and bravery the greatest relyance may be placed.

I shall set out this evening for the seat of Government.

I have the honor to be with the highest consideration, Sir, Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq *Sect. of War*

MCCLURE TO HARRISON

FORT GEORGE, 16th November, 1813

Har. Pa. 235

MY DEAR SIR:

I cannot suffer you to depart from this post without expressing to you the great satisfaction I have received from our intercourse and my extreme regret that its continuance is so short. You carry with you, Sir, the highest esteem and

the warmest admiration of every officer and soldier under my command who has had any opportunity of forming an acquaintance with you.

Your recommendations will meet with every attention and respect in my power, and I shall only regret that you are not here yourself to execute them.

For the terms of approbation which you have been pleased to use in speaking of my conduct, I can tender you only my thanks.

With the warmest wishes for your health and prosperity and that of your officers with whom I have had the pleasure of an acquaintance.

I remain with utmost respect
Your friend and servant

GEO. MCCLURE

Major Gen. HARRISON

POSEY MESSAGE TO ASSEMBLY

December 6, 1813

Western Sun, December 25, 1813
Dillon, *History of Indiana, 527*

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives:

The period which calls you in your legislative capacity having arrived, it is with pleasure I give my attendance and will cheerfully coöperate with you in exerting to promote the public good and welfare of the Territory.

The present crisis is awful and big with great events; our land and nation is involved in the common calamity of war, but we are under the protecting care of the beneficent Being who has, on a former occasion, bro't us in safety through an arduous struggle, and placed us on a foundation of independence, freedom, and happiness. He will not suffer to be taken from us what he in his great wisdom has tho't proper to confer and bless us with, if we make a wise and virtuous use of his good gifts.

In the present contest with Great Britain, in contending for the preservation of our dearest rights it would be improper to omit our supplications to that Almighty Being, who rules over the universe, who presided in the councils of na-

tions, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect. We have great reason to be thankful to him for the success of our arms by land and water. Altho' our affairs at the commencement of the war wore a gloomy aspect, they have brightened and promise a certainty of success, if properly directed and conducted,—of which I have no doubt, as the President and heads of departments of the general government are men of undoubted talents, patriotism, and experience, and who have grown old in the service of their country. We have reason to be thankful that such men are at the head of our affairs. Our army and navy have brought to view officers of the greatest bravery, patriotism, skill, and enterprise. Our soldiers and seamen, tho' almost undisciplined, have in many instances, fought with as much bravery and perseverance as the most hardy veterans. If there is so great a promise at so early a period of the war, what must be our prospects should the war continue? Our cause is just, and if we have virtue and constancy what is there to cause doubt of success? It must be obvious to every thinking mind that we were forced into the war. Every measure consistent with honor, both before and since the declaration of war, has been tried to be upon amicable terms with our enemy. If they will not listen to reciprocity, and be at peace with us, where is the man who is a friend to his country that will not give a helping hand and use his best exertions to preserve and maintain inviolate the just rights of his country? It is to be hoped there is none such.

I now come to the part we are more immediately interested in. Upper Canada is nearly or altogether in possession of the armies of the United States. This is a happy event for the peace and security of the western country. We partake in a very essential degree of the blessing. The communication being cut off between the British and Indians, will ensure peace with the latter; and I hope and trust what has caused our country to expend so much blood and treasure will never be resigned or relinquished. It is essentially necessary that the United States should hold possession of Upper Canada at least; and true policy would dictate to our government to get possession (and keep it) of both Upper and Lower Canada—making the citizens free and independent, though to form a part of the Union. I could wish, and am fully of opinion, that it would be the interest of the United States if the whole

of the British possessions or dominions in North America were independent of Great Britain.

There is a bill before Congress, introduced by Mr. [James] Kilbourn, of the State of Ohio, purporting to lay off a district of country upon our northwestern frontiers, stretching from the Connecticut Reserve and lake Erie to the Mississippi, and giving a certain quantity of land as a donation to all who may become actual residents. Should the bill pass into a law there can be very little doubt of the speedy settlement of the district,—which, together with Upper Canada in our possession, will form a barrier that may bid defiance to any Indian hostilities on any of our frontiers east of the Mississippi, and no doubt will afford protection to the Missouri territory.

I will now call to your attention such subjects as require the deliberations of your present meeting. Much depends upon you, gentlemen, in bringing to maturity such laws as will have a tendency to render equal justice to each individual of the community, and promote the general welfare of the Territory. You, who reside in various parts of the Territory, have it in your power to understand what will tend to its general and local advantage.

The judiciary system would require a revisal and amendment. The militia law is very defective and requires immediate attention. It is necessary to have good roads and highways, in as many directions through the Territory as the circumstances and situation of the inhabitants will admit of; it would contribute very much to promote the settlement and improvement of the Territory. Attention to education is highly necessary; there is an appropriation made by congress in land, for the purpose of establishing public schoools. It comes now within your province to carry into operation the design of the appropriation. The situation and state of the treasury is a necessary subject for your consideration; a statement (marked A) [omitted] of the disbursements of the appropriation made by the legislature at their last session, constituting a contingent fund subject to my disposition, is herewith transmitted.

All the necessary documents relative to the situation of the territory and other subjects as they may occur, shall be communicated from time to time, thro' the course of the session.

I wish you a pleasant session, recommending harmony and dispatch of business.

THOMAS POSEY

Harrison on the Militia

Toast at Philadelphia Dec. 9, 1813

Niles' Register

Gentlemen:

Permit me to offer you a volunteer toast, and very briefly to state the motive which prompts me to take one of the regular toast of the day as a mean of communicating my opinion. Believing, as I do, that a sentiment is gaining ground unfriendly to republicanism and injurious to the nation, and knowing from my own experience, that the sentiment is not well founded, I will give you

The Militia of the United States. They possess the Roman spirit and when our government shall think proper to give them that organization and discipline of which they are susceptible, they will perform deeds that will emulate those of the legions led by Marcellus, and Scipio.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Washington City 21st December, 1813

Har. Pa. 245-246

Sir:

The probability of the Ohio being soon closed with ice has determined me to proceed to the westward tomorrow, altho I should have been extremely glad to have had the honour of another interview with you. At Cincinnati I shall wait your further instructions. The President is apprehensive that the enemy will make and attempt this winter to re-occupy Malden and Detroit. An enterprise of that kind is not very improbable for the purpose of regaining the confidence of the Indians. As General Cass has been withdrawn, I think it important that some officer of rank and talents should be sent to succeed him. Gen. [Benjamin] Howard can be spared from the Missouri Territory. To the Military Talents of Governor [William] Clark and his intimate acquaintance with the Indians our affairs in that quarters can be safely confided.

If the determination of the Government in relation to the late hostile Indians should be such as you suggested and which I believe is approbated by the President, it is requisite that immediate attention be given to that subject to anticipate the British Agents who will certainly be at work amongst them.

Those that were formerly employed should be immediately paid. A distribution of goods should take place to relieve their immediate and pressing wants and moderate quantities of provision and ammunition furnished. The late hostile chiefs were very desirous of knowing whether the former boundary of their lands was to continue. Upon this subject I have had some conversation with the President and some of the leading western members their opinions seem all decidely to coincide with mine that the Indians ought to be made easy in this particular because it is evident that upon the restoration of peace any extinguishments of title which the United States may acquire can be effected for a consideration so trifling that it ought not to be regarded.

A considerable portion of the Ohio Militia now in service may be dismissed, a few will be necessary to garrison certain posts upon the frontiers. Shall I expect your particular directions as to the number of those to be kept up? Most of the Rangers may also be dismissed. One company at St. Louis will I think be sufficient for that quarter. But it will be necessary to raise one at Detroit. I deem this an indispensable measure to the safety of that country. What shall be done with the horses of [S. G.] Hopkin's Troops of Light Dragoons which were left at Cleveland? There is also a quantity of public property at all the Posts in Ohio which is no longer useful. Shall it be collected and sold?

From a letter which has been written from the War Office since your departure to the Northern Frontier, I perceive that Gen. Howard has been authorised to consider himself as having an Independent command. It will therefore require a letter from you directing him to repair to Detroit or requiring him to receive my orders.

Upon the subject of Indian affairs I should be glad to receive your directions in detail and permit me to request that your answer to this letter may be immediately forwarded to Cincinnatti to meet me upon my arrival there.

I have the honor to be with the Most Respectful Consideration

Sir, Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG

Posey Special Message

Corydon, Dec. 27, 1813

Western Sun, February 19, 1814
Dillon, *History of Indiana, 529, note*

The honorable the President of the Legislative Council:

Sir: I wish you to communicate to your honorable body that the delicate state of my health will not admit of my longer continuance at this place, [Corydon]. I find myself badly situated on account of the want of medical aid; my physician is at Louisville, and I have taken the medicine bro't with me. The weather is moderate now, which will be favorable to my going on to Jeffersonville, where any communications that the two houses of the Legislature may have to make will find me. Mr. [Basil?] Prather will, in the most expeditious manner, bring them on, and it will take but a short time for me to act upon them and for his return, which would not detain the Legislature in session more than a day longer. Be assured, sir, that nothing but imperious necessity compels me to this step.

Accept of assurances of my high respect for yourself and your honorable body.[1]

Th: Posey

Secretary of War to Harrison

War Department Dec. 29th 1813

Har. Pa. 85, 86

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st and 22d instant. [see above]

Captain [Charles Scott] Todd has been, as you wished, appointed an asst. to Inspector General, in the room of Lieut.

1. The Governor's decision to leave the capital for his home before the end of the legislative session excited some censure, as is shown by the following communication to the *Western Sun*, Feb. 19, 1814:

"*Mr. [Elihu] Stout, [Editor]:*

"It is said in some parts of this Territory that the murmur raised in Vincennes against the Governor, on account of his leaving the seat of government during the session of the legislature, is unfounded, and treating him with ingratitude, for that his leaving the seat of government during the session, was known to the legislature, and by them approved of. To put a stop to the error, I give you a copy of his excellency's letter to the president of the Legislative Council, and the resolution entered into immediately upon reading his letter, which I trust will be sufficient evidence to the people of the Territory that the Legislative Council did not approve of his plan, mode, and

[Levi] Hukill deceased. Lieut. [David] Tremble will be placed where you desire, if it be practicable. You are apprised of the excitement and clamor which follows the introduction of strangers into old Corps, and in violation of the rule of seniority. It is this circumstance that gives occasion to any degree of doubt on the subject.

Dr. [Edward] Scull shall be appointed to the 19th Regiment. I am entirely of opinion that the enemy will endeavour to reestablish himself to the West. The failure of the campaign on the St. Lawrence, and the late abandonment of the Peninsula by General McClure will quicken his hopes and endeavours in the prosecution of this policy. To recover his ascendency over the Indians, he must stretch himself to the Westward and take a position which will facilitate his communications with them. The British Settlements on the Thames will furnish this position. These facts indicate the course we ought to pursue.

1st. These settlements must be broken up and converted into a desart or they must be held by a superior force—a force competent to controul the inhabitants and to meet any auxiliary means General Prevost may detach for the purpose of recovering what Proctor has lost. Between these two modes of proceeding we cannot hesitate—the former is the cheapest and surest.

2nd. We must conciliate the late hostile tribes and make them parties with us in the War. This cannot be done but by supplying their wants and by assuring them that their present boundaries shall continue, as though no War had arisen between us.

3rd. Thus engaged, they should be led early in the Spring against the British frontier. Let loose upon that and well directed, we should not by the 1st day of June have a British

manner of abandoning the seat of government. [Here follows the Governor's message, as given above.]

"On motion of Mr. [Walter] Wilson, [of Knox] the Legislative Council came to the following resolution: 'Whereas, it hath been represented to this house that his excellency the Governor is about to leave the seat of government and go to the town of Jeffersonville, in Clark county,—*Resolved*, therefore, by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives, that the committee of enrolled bills be instructed not to deliver the enrolled bills to any person except his excellency.' This resolution was sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence; the following day the House of Representatives informed the Council that they had concurred in the above resolution. By the above letter and resolution you must think that the Governor's leaving the seat of government met with the disapprobation of the Legislature.

A Subscriber."

settler west of Kingston. A question may occur here—under what, if any restrictions as to their mode of warfare we ought to employ them? This question has in it no difficulty. Under what justification do we employ them at all? The example of the enemy. It was not our choice but theirs, and but an appeal made to their fears after having unsuccessfully made many to their justice. The experiment should therefore have fair play. All the horrors brought to our firesides ought to be carried to theirs. Nor is this a policy of mere retaliation. The settlements in upper Canada abandoned their posts cannot be supplied, and will of course be also abandoned.

General Mason will receive directions to forward supplies agreeably to a list which I understand you left with him and it will be for you to judge of the quantities of provision and ammunition that shall be distributed. Such portions of the Ohio Militia as can in your opinion be safely dispensed with should be immediately discharged. The 1st and part of the 24th Regt. of Infantry should be withdrawn, and put on their march for Sackett's Harbour. General [Benjamin] Howard's opinion may decide what portion of the Rangers may be retained in Service. If two or more of these be thought useless, at St. Louis or its vicinity, two others may be substituted for them at Detroit. General Howard will be instructed to take your orders.

I cannot add by anything I can say to the interest you will take in filling up the Regiments of the Line which have hitherto formed your Division. Most of these have been raised and will be recruited within your District. If any new legislative measures be taken in relation to the recruiting service they shall be immediately communicated. It is worthy of inquiry how many Riflemen could be engaged under the denomination of Volunteers, within the State of Kentucky for the ensuing campaign and within what time they could be brought to Sackett's Harbour.

The Horses of [S. G.] Hopkin's troop may be sold and those and other articles the property of the public to which you allude, and which do not appear to be longer useful. A report of the articles and the prices at which they shall be sold will be sent to this office. The enemy have crossed the Niagara, burnt Lewiston and carried Fort Niagara by *surprise*. These new and humiliating circumstances furnish fresh reasons for

quickness and vigor in the course we adopt for engaging the Indians and otherwise defending what your last Campaign has given us. Will the fleet be safe at Erie and at put-in-Bay? If not, should you not take that circumstance into the account and make provision accordingly?

Major Genl. HARRISON CINCINNATI, O.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 102)

Head Quarters, PITTSBURGH, 29th Dec. 1813

Har. Pa. 248

SIR:

You have been informed that the two ships, taken by Comodore Perry from the enemy were left at Put in Bay under the protection of a small guard of Infantry. As there can be no doubt but the enemy will make every exertion to destroy our fleet on Lake Erie and as it can easily be effected with regard to these at the Bay without much difficulty, I think we should anticipate them and destroy them ourselves. The guns on board these vessels would be of immense importance to the enemy. Without them they could not arm their vessels, even should they succeed in building one or two at Long Point after destroying the whole of ours. I think that this subject requires immediate attention.

Permit me to remind you of the claims of Col. Smith for the command of the contemplated Rifle Brigade.

Our vessels at Erie should in my opinion be enclosed with Picketts, it would not be difficult to effect it.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect

Sir Your Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG. Esq *Secretary of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 1st 1814

Har. Pa. 87, 88

SIR:

We are advised by Genl. [James] Wilkinson that a corps of two thousand five hundred men were pushed up the St. Lawrence by forced marches for Kingston. It is less probable that

this corps is destined against Sackett's Harbour as suggested by the General than that it is going westward to re-establish the British power on the Detroit or to take the place of corps who may have already moved with that intention.

We are advised also by captain [Jesse D.] Elliott that the ships in put-in bay may require some troops for their protection during the winter. Of the number of these you will be the most competent judge. The vessels at Erie are also to be protected, but for these I shall make provision through the Governor of Pennsylvania and by recruits from Pittsburg.

Genl. [Lewis] Cass's Brigade has suffered a most rapid and alarming diminution. At the date of his last Brigade return, his rank and file fit for duty did not exceed 470 and this is said to have been since reduced to less than half that number. An epidemic little, if at all under the control of medicine, is believed to be the cause. This circumstance and that contained on the first paragraph of this letter offer sufficient reasons for continuing the Ohio Regiments of Militia in service, until by other calls or by the organization of a Volunteer force (which may be better) you may be able to meet the exigencies of the moment.

The President bids me to say to you, that on reflection he thinks the measure indicated in my last letter with regard to the British settlers on the Thames is more severe than may be proper and that of course you will change it for the following viz: to make prisoners and remove to our settlements, so many of the male British settlers as may be most disposed to do us harm.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Jany. 8th, 1814

Har. Pa. 89

SIR:

The measure you suggest of burning the ships in Put-in Bay can only be resorted to when all others calculated for their defense have failed. The ships themselves present a heavier battery than any that can be brought against them on the ice. If therefore precautions be taken against boarding they may winter securely. Some efficient officer and a competent garrison should occupy the Block House. Genl.

[Lewis] Cass has probably left Detroit for Albany. General [Benjamin] Howard should lose no time in pressing forward to the former of these places.

There are about twelve hundred public arms at Cleveland with which you will arm any new corps of militia to be called out or which, should the enemy continue to ascend the Lake and burn the Villages, you may distribute for purposes of defence.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 11th, 1814

Har. Pa. 95

SIR

You are authorized to invite the late hostile Indians to a Treaty of Peace. Time must be allowed for General Mason to get forward his supplies. You will select the place of holding the treaty. Fort Wayne suggests itself. Let us know your decision with regard to both time and place as early as possible.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 13th 1814

Har. Pa. 96

SIR:

Herewith inclosed you will receive a copy of a requisition made by General Cass for a detachment of Militia from the State of Ohio and a copy of my letter to the Governor on the subject. You will adopt such further arrangements as the good of the service may require.

Major Genl. HARRISON, CINCINNATI

PREVOST TO DICKSON

Jan. 14, 1813

Mich. Pio. and Hist. Soc. Pub. XV, 218

Reposing especial trust in your Zeal, loyalty and ability, I have been induced to appoint you to be agent for the Indians of the several Nations to the Westward of Lake Huron, by

Commission dated on the 1st Jany. 1813, with a salary of £200 per Annum payable through the accounts of the Indian Department and the several allowances of a superintendent together with an allowance of £300 A. H. C. per Annum which will be paid you from another source, to cover all traveling and contingent expenses.

It appears to be highly expedient for the benefit of the Public Welfare in this part of H. M. Dominions that as effective an Indian force as practicable should be brought forward next spring from amongst the Western Nations, to be employed when circumstances may require their Aid in the Province of Upper Canada. With a view therefore to accomplish this object and to give greater respectability and efficacy to your exertions, you are hereby furnished with a Commission from me, and you are required to proceed without delay upon the Service.

I approve of LaBaye [Green Bay] and Chicago being the place of rendezvous for the Indians, where as many of the articles stated in the returns submitted by you to the Confidential Board at Montreal, as can be furnished will be ordered to be sent as early as possible in the spring from Amherstburg and Michilimackinac, and you have authority to purchase such provisions as may be absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the Indians until the several Articles arrive, as also some Tobacco & Liquor, to be given them as a regale. When Collected You will report the same to the Officer Commg in Upper Canada, stating to him the Number of Warriors disposable, and wait instructions for their movements from thence according to the Circumstances of the War.

You have Authority to make such requisitions as may be necessary upon H. M. Indian storekeepers or other proper officers for such goods and provisions, as from time to time shall be Considered needful for the accomplishment of the Object in View, such requisitions being with the Knowledge & Concurrence of the Officer Comg. H. M. Forces at the Post where the requisition is made, Instructions to this effect will be given to the proper Officers by Majo Genl Sheaffe and Sir John Johnson.

Amable Chevalier the Ottawa Indian will be allowed to accompany you upon your intended excursion and may be considered as a Lieut. & Interpreter and receive pay of 5 s. Currency per day. Captain Norton may also proceed with you

from Niagara to Amherstburg, and return as soon as possible if Major Genl. Sheaffe can dispense with his services for the period he would be absent.

You will be allowed to employ a number of officers, not exceeding Five Who must be men of intelligence and confidence, & a Number of Interpreters well versed in the languages of the Western tribes not exceeding 15, being in all 20. The Officers will hereafter be furnished with Commissions as Lieutts. with Provincial rank and the pay of 6s 6d per day and allowances, The Interpreters will have warrants & pay at the rate of a Dollar a day & allowances. The above numbers of officers and interpreters are mentioned in the Anticipation that upwards of 1000 picked Warriors will be Collected. If less than that number the Officers and interpreters should be in proportion.

During the period of your present employment it is to be understood that you are not to be engaged in any trade whatever, & your appointment is only intended during the war with the United States, unless Government should see fit at the peace to prolong it. It is also to be understood that the subordinate appointments are only to continue during the war.

In the policy to be strictly observed, in your conduct towards the different tribes, it is desirable that you should endeavour to conciliate them to act together harmoniously, that you should restrain them by all the means in your power from acts of Cruelty and inhumanity, encouraging in them a disposition to preserve an alliance of friendship with their great father the King of England, by whose special favour they are indulged with his protection, and that the presents and other comforts they now receive flow from his bounty, in his kind consideration to preserve them and their families from the miseries to which they are exposed by an Enemy overrunning their Country.

The Indians in General should be instructed to hold out to all Americans whether in arms or otherwise that they must retire beyond the boundary line fixed by Wayne's treaty and that no Americans can be allowed to remain on the Indian side of the line, without the risk of being treated as enemies, except where reserves have been granted by treaties with the Indians, and it is to be clearly understood that the Indians only are to appear as the movers in such proceedings.

You will report to me from time to time by the most ex-

peditious route all your proceedings & you will carefully maintain a communication with the officers commg His Majesty's Forces in U. Canada, respecting the success or difficulties which may attend the important service you have undertaken.

GEORGE PREVOST, *Com. of the Forces*

To ROBERT DICKSON

GANO TO HARRISON

Head Quarters, O. M. LOWER SANDUSKY
January 17, 1814
Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 656

DEAR GENERAL:

The disagreeable news from below occasions me to have great anxiety for the vessels at Put-in-bay. I proceeded a few days ago to Portage, in order to cross to see their situation; the ice prevented my going by water and was not sufficient to bear. I have, however, been relieved by a visit from Lieutenant Champlain, and Doctor Eastman of the navy, who came up the night before last and returned yesterday; they came over on the ice, though it was very thin in places. The lieutenant informs me he has ten seamen and forty soldiers, and has his vessels and guns so prepared, that, in case of an attack, he can bring about forty to bear from on board and a small block-house, on the rocky point of land near the vessels. I shall, by his request, and my own opinion of the necessity of the measure, send a reinforcement of about thirty of the regulars from Seneca, as soon as the ice is sufficiently strong to bear them. At the fort at Portage I have one hundred militia, which may render them some assistance if necessary; my troops are very much scattered, and I believe every post is in a tolerable state of defence. The troops have had immense fatigue since they have been out, they are now more healthy, and appear in better spirits since two months' pay has come on, though nothing will induce them to continue longer than their term of service, which expires the last of next month. Majors Vance and Meek arrived three days ago from Detroit, and have an exalted opinion of the vigilance and arrangements of Colonel Butler; the officers Captains Holmes and Hill, commanding Malden and Sandwich, have put themselves in the best possible state of defence. A detachment under the command of Major Smiley has gone up the river

Thames. The militia at Detroit are discontented, a number sick, some dead, etc. I have been hawk and buzzard as to supplies—the commissary and contractor—and I fear that with all the exertions that can be made some of the posts must suffer; at Meigs no flour, and two or three other posts in the nearly the same situation. I called on the contractors and urged the necessity of immediate supplies, but I cannot rely on their promises. The want of forage has nearly destroyed all the transport on this line; I have urged Captain Gardner to supply the agent of that department, at this place, with funds for that purpose but to no effect. I have been lately very unwell, but have recovered, except a lame ancle. As it is uncertain where this will meet you, I shall not give a detailed account until I know where you are, and will then write more fully, and send you a report of the troops under my command.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN S. GANO

P. S. Six o'clock P. M. An express from Erie has just arrived here, a naval officer with a letter from General Cass, and a request from Captain Elliot for a reinforcement for Put-in-Bay of two hundred men. I have ordered Lieutenant McFarland from Seneca with all his effective regulars, about thirty able to march being all the disposable force I have, except a small command at Portage erecting a fortification there, from which I will detach a part, though the whole cannot make more than a third of the number required. From information there is not the least doubt but an attempt will be made to take or destroy the vessels; it is the opinion of Lieutenant Packet and General Cass also. Will it not be proper to send on some regular troops or militia from the interior without delay?

JOHN S. GANO

His Excellency WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SHELBY

Head Quarters CINCINNATTI 17th Jany. 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 48

DEAR SIR

The situation of our frontiers requiring in my opinion all the regular Troops to be marched from the interior I must

request your Excellency to detach a command of one Lieutenant one Ensign and sixty-five non-Commissioned Officers and privates to guard the Arsenal and the Prisoners of war at Newport.

I have the honour to be with great respect & consideration

Your Excellency

Humble servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Gov. ISAAC SHELBY, FRANKFORT

GANO TO HARRISON

Head Quarters, O. M. LOWER SANDUSKY,
January 25, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 656

DEAR GENERAL:

Yours of the 16th inst. I received this day, and directed my brigade major to make the enclosed report, by which you will see the situation of the troops under my command. I have issued orders as per enclosed copies. The difficulty in forwarding provisions, owing to the impossibility of transportation by land, has been and is, severely felt; the troops at Meigs have been obliged to take flour from Winchester themselves, there being no other means of transport, and are now but scantily supplied; I have urged the contractors on this head, but have received nothing but fair promises, until my patience is entirely exhausted, and I have directed Mr. Oliver to supply. A man from Put-in-bay left here this morning. He informs me the detachment I sent on had not been able to cross, but are waiting at the point of the peninsula, and will cross as soon as possible; I have ordered Major Crooks with some militia to cross; which will make the force there as follows: sailors twenty two, Atkins' command forty-two, all now there; [Daniel] McFarland with twenty-eight regulars on the march, and Crooks with Captain Howel's company, say forty, which is one hundred and thirty-two, and I have one company at the fort at Portage. I fear the provisions at the island are not sufficient to support them until the ice will break up to afford water transportation to them; and at Portage they depend on this place for flour, which is scarce; they have, however, meat enough here. Thus, you see, as before I observed

to you, we have been between hawk and buzzard—the contractor and commissary. I am informed the detachment that returned to Detroit from the Thames did not succeed in getting the quantity of provision expected. I am also informed, by some officers from Buffalo, that the British were preparing a secret expedition; their destination unknown. I am happy to inform you every exertion has been made at Detroit, Sandwich, and Malden to defend those places to the last extremity and the commanding officer, since General Cass left there, deserves great credit. Neither of those places will be given up without, some fighting; the officers commanding each are in high spirits, and have great confidence in their ability to defend their posts. Some artillery officers have passed on to Detroit, and I am of opinion that some active regular officers are wanting there, as many have left it. The militia have been very much reduced there, as you will see. I must inform you I have lost a number of my militia, out of the few I had here. I buried at this place fifteen or sixteen, which is as great a proportion as they have lost at Detroit; and one other small part of a company has buried seven. I have never mentioned this part of the subject before, as I thought it best to keep it close. I am informed some Canadians attempted to cross from Long Point to Put-in-bay, but found the ice insufficient and returned; their object not known. I assure you I have and will continue to use every exertion for the good of the service; I have had the arms, etc. that the Kentuckians threw away at Portage collected, and the principal part brought to this place, and the cattle and some horses have been taken and converted to public use. There is plenty of ammunition at Fort Meigs, but it is scarce on this line. I sent for powder to Meigs, but our means of transportation was such that we only received two hundred pounds half cannon; but I am informed there is a large quantity on board the vessels fixed and unfixed, and six thousand five hundred stand of arms, some field carriages, etc. which I have ordered to be brought over as soon as the ice will permit; the roads are so very bad it has been impracticable. I am well satisfied I have not been ordered to Detroit, and particularly as General Cass appeared to be opposed to it; and I have had an immense trouble in regulating my different posts, and quieting the murmurs of my militia. They are very good, but not such as I

used to take the field with when we were first acquainted in the former Indian wars. I have ordered to be transmitted to the secretary of War the sentence of two general court martials, as I (by the articles of war) am authorized to approve of the sentence, and have it carried into effect. If those powers are delegated to you, sir, please to inform me by the bearer. Mr. Sallion, who has been stationed at Fort Meigs in the commissary's line, can give you much information on many points that I cannot at present. General Cass, by my request, ordered Colonel Paul to inspect the militia at this Post, Portage, Meigs, Findlay, Upper Sandusky, and McArthur, and Captain Moore on the other line, which is completed by this time.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient and humble servant.

JOHN S. GANO

His Excellency WILLIAM H. HARRISON

P. S. You will see a great diminution of my force, many being sick and absent, and I having discharged two companies by your order to escort the prisoners, etc. My first report was two thousand one hundred and thirty-four, and the amount ordered to Detroit was near six hundred. You see now the number of effectives there are amazingly reduced.

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT January 25th 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 174

DEAR SIR

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt last evening of your favour of the 17th inst., [see above] requiring me to order to Newport one Lieutenant, 1 Ensign and sixty-five non-Commissioned Officers & privates to guard the Arsenal & prisoners of war at that place.

In consequence of which I have ordered Major General Boswell commanding the division most contiguous to that point to detach immediately from his command the force you require, and order them to their post of destination without the least possible loss of time.

As you have not stated for what length of time their services would be required I have ordered them out for three months

from the time they arrive at Newport unless sooner discharged by your Orders, if therefore it should be necessary to relieve this detachment at the expiration of their time of service you will be so good as to apprise me in time that it may be effected in due season.

Permit me to congratulate you on your safe arrival to your family who I hope you found in good health—I am sure you must want rest and trust the cause of your Country will now afford you the opportunity to enjoy it at your own fireside—I will take this occasion too to thank you for the loan of your sorrel horse, and to inform you that I left him in the care of General Gano (as you requested) at lower Sandusky he promised me to take special care of it and let you know that he had him in charge.

With sincere regard & esteem
I remain
Dear Sir
Your most obt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

Genl. HARRISON

GANO TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, January 27, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 657

DEAR GENERAL:

Captain Payne has called on me to sanction his drawing funds for his department; I have thought proper to refer him to you; I am informed a good supply of corn may be had near a mill forty miles from this. Will it not be advisable to have three or four hundred of meal forwarded on to the army? The flour the contractor's agent promised, should have been here ten days ago, but has not arrived, and owing to the disappointment we are reduced in that article at this post to nineteen barrels Senecca, seventeen Portage. I sent four barrels there yesterday; at Meigs they are very short, at Winchester they have two or three hundred barrels, but short of meat. I must confess I have been completely deceived and disappointed by them, they having stated it was on the road. I gave them notice 24th December, to have three months' rations at different posts for the number of men specified. Captain Payne knows the situation; you will please give him such

directions as you think proper, on this subject; he certainly exerted himself much to my satisfaction, in forwarding provisions and clothing to Detroit; you know him. If he could get leave to settle his accounts it may be best. Excuse this suggestion. If you had not arrived in your district, I was determined to have sent in every direction and purchased provisions at all events for the troops in service, and those that were to relieve them, but I am happy the arrangement has fallen into your hands, for I think I would hang half of the quartermasters and all the contractors, if I was to remain in service much longer; and I am astonished how you have managed with them to effect the objects you have, for there appears no system or regularity with any of them. I have ordered one company more to this place from Findlay, and a sergeant, two corporals, and twelve men from Upper Sandusky to that post, which is all the force I can order here from this and the centre line. This day's report is eighty sick, at Meigs. I am happy to inform you the troops at Detroit are recovering, for you see we can afford them but little aid. If a successful attempt is made at Put-in bay, (which God forbid, and I think impossible,) we may have a visit from them. We will endeavor to give a good account, for my men are in high spirits, and I have added much to the strength of this place; we are not well supplied with ammunition, but have sent for some from the shipping and Franklinton.

I am, with great respect, your humble servant.

JOHN S. GANO

M. ELLIOTT TO GLEGG

BEACH 31st January 1814

Mich. Hist. and Pio. Soc. Pa. XV, 484

SIR,

The Indian Messengers I had sent to the Westward arrived to day at 12 o'clock Just as I received your letter.

They brought a Speech on Wampum from their Brethern expressing their joy at our success and their anxious wishes for our speedy arrival among them, telling their Father that they have only taken the Big Knife by his fingers end and have spoken to them from the lip outwards and that they are always ready to obey their Father's order so soon as given. That they are more afraid of the French inhabitants who are

all armed, than of the American Troops, because if they hear of their having received messages from this place they will seize their wives & children and put them in confinement.

The messengers report that the inhabitants have made the Indians believe that the Americans had cleared all before them to Quebec & that the small remnant was shut up in Quebec living on dogs & horses.

The Americans they suppose are in expectation of a reinforcement at Detroit as a vast number of Hogs & Cattle are daily killed & the store kept full. The Detroit with about a hundred Shot Holes on her is at Amherstburg and all the other vessels at Presquisle. This we will be more certain of when Captain Caldwell arrives. Our Friends to the westward make a demand of arms & ammunition and wish us to send about forty men loaded with the articles. Arms also & Gunpowder are wanted for the people here of the first I secured some from Kingston & you can supply the latter. The Stores here will otherwise answer all the demands.

The Sakies & Foxes as they intend to go to their own country are arriving at Detroit, will take their Families with them, but as there are not many of them the Expence will not be considerable. The other Tribes leave their families here. six hundred warriors if wanted are ready to cooperate with the Troops & only wait the call.

Upon this point the Lieut Genls further directions are requested—

Altho' desirous of manifesting in the name of H. R. H. the Prince Regent, his desire to maintain a perfectly good understanding with the Western Indians & to protect them from the encroachments of the U. S. upon their territory I am disposed to relinquish that wish provided Lt. Genl. Drummond is satisfied that the reasons alleged are Just & ought to be attended to—

I had almost forgot to mention that I received a few days ago a letter on the Subject of the projected Expedition from His Honor Lieutenant General Drummond requiring my opinion about employing only the Delawares & Munseys, and also his desire that no useless consumer of provisions should be allowed to go along. I certainly am of his & General Riall's opinion as to the last but I stated to him on the subject of the Munseys & Delawares, that it appeared to me impolitic, &

might occasion jealousies, & I proposed a selection from all the Tribes, amounting to the number that might be required, as a step that I was sure would give general satisfaction,

I am now recruiting slowly & hope in a few days to be able to undertake any service General Riall may wish to be performed.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your obedient Humble Servant

M. ELLIOTT *S. I. A.*

To Capt. J. B. GLEGG

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Feby. 5th 1814

Har. Pa. 97

SIR:

Brig. General Howard's destination to Detroit has been suspended. The state of his health is represented as bad. [he died Sept. 18] This may account for your not having heard from him. I inclose the substance of Lt. Worley's information.

Will it not be well to bring off the guns from the ships at Put-in-bay? Were the vessels completely dismantled, they would form a small object for the enterprise of the enemy.

The alarms for the safety of Erie and the shipping there, which followed the disasters on the Niagara brought together a host of 3000 volunteers and militia. If the passage of the Lake be practicable to the enemy why not to us also? 1000 of the Volunteers may cross over to long-point and break up that establishment. Orders to this effect have been given.

Major General HARRISON

GANO TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, February, 10, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 657

DEAR GENERAL:

The day before yesterday I returned from Fort Meigs, after making some necessary arrangements there. I have one additional company of men at Portage, who have orders to cross, as soon as the ice will admit, which will fill the complement required. They marched from Fort Findlay; the man who

floated off on a cake of ice is safe. It wafted him to the ice fast to the island a singular escape. I believe the vessel safe, but will be ready to afford all the protection in my power. I have been obliged to discharge some men who had certificates of having served a month last summer a year. The men are all anxious to be relieved; they have had a busy tour, and I would be glad to have those at the island relieved before, or by the time their term of service expires; and if those on this line could be mustered at Upper Sandusky, if you approve can deposite their arms there, and those of Detroit and Meigs could be mustered at Winchester or St. Mary's. I will await your orders on this subject, and if I remain alone will keep this post until relieved or ordered away, though I feel anxious to see my family, and particularly on account of the indisposition of a part of it.

I have ordered the arms from this to Franklinton that want repair, and if you advise tents and camp kettles, axes, etc., could be sent in by return wagons. There has been no possible way of removing the six or seven thousand stand of arms, etc, etc, from the vessels. My brigade major has not been able to return, and I think there has been a kind interposition of Providence in the protection of the vessels. This winter, provision has been extremely scanty; we have been reduced to half a barrel flour here, but I ordered from Seneca three barrels, and purchased or borrowed two or three for the company. At Portage, and at Fort Meigs, they were four days without, though twenty-four barrels arrived there the night before I left there, and more expected. Mr. Oliver informs me, supplies will shortly be on to this place; you must have received the news from Detroit as late as this, therefore I will not communicate. Please present my compliments to your good lady and family, and believe me to be, with much esteem.

Your most obedient humble servant

JOHN S. GANO

To His Excellency HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Feby 10th 1814

Har. Pa. 98

SIR

Your letter of Dec 24th addressed to the Department of

State has been referred to this Department and conformably to your offer, I have to request you to forward charges with such evidence as you may possess, relative to the mal-conduct of John Sibley, Indian agent at Natchiteches.

WM. H. HARRISON

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, 17th Feb. 1814

Har. Pa. 281, 282

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you an annual return of the militia of this Territory, the aggregate of which including officers, commissioned and non-commissioned and rank and file, will amount to 5017. This number I thought sufficient to form three divisions six brigades and twelve regiments. The number as well as the large extent of the Territory and dispersed situation of the militia would justify it and the Territory is increasing very fast in population. A consideration of the foregoing circumstances, together with the more practical mode of discipline has induced me to the formation of the militia in the manner mentioned.

I have not yet completed my selection of General officers, but shall make out a list and transmit to you in a few weeks, to be commissioned by the President. [The return was not found]

I have the honor to be with much respect

Your obt. and Humble Servant.

TH. POSEY

Gen. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Sect. of War*

P. S. The Adjutant General informs me he has inclosed the annual return of the militia a few days since.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT March 2nd 1814

Har. Pa. 99

SIR

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 13th ult. As a general principle it cannot be doubted but that the Government has a right to dispose of the Officers of the Army as they may think best for the public interest because (among other reasons) they alone can be acquainted with all the demands made

upon them by that interest. The utmost therefore that either reason or economy requires of them is to advertise the officer commanding a District of the abstractions which public policy makes necessary from his command. The order in question was a notice of "this sort" and of course strictly an observance of military usage. Had it been sent through you to General Howard, the objects of Government might have been hazarded by the delay which would have necessarily attended this mode of transmission. The fact out of which it grew is that General Flournoy had sought a recall from New Orleans and that in casting about for a successor General Howard was selected.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT March 3rd 1814

Har. Pa. 100

SIR:

Governor Cass and some of the members of Congress from the State of Ohio have suggested as part of the arrangement to be made with the Indian tribes at the ensuing treaty—a commutation of land: for instance, that the Wyandots, Delawares and Shawonese should on relinquishment of their former settlements and removal to the country between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, be established therein. The policy of separation would, in theory as well as practice, be useful. So long as their settlements and ours actually touch each other collisions are to be feared. The policy also of keeping our own line of settlements unbroken, is obviously sound. How far the Indians may be disposed to meet us on these grounds is questionable. On this point make the necessary inquiries and communicate the result in time to shape the instructions which it may be proper to give on the subject.

Your letter stating that you had deputed Mr. [John] Johnston to hold a preliminary meeting with the Indians has been received.

Major Genl. HARRISON

ELLIOTT TO STEWART

DELAWARE March 4th, 1814

SIR,

I have this day had a meeting with the Indians, on the sub-

ject of carrying a quantity of ammunition to their friends within the American Territory. The result is that they refuse to proceed with the ammunition on the ground that our regular troops do not advance further than the Settlements on the River Thames, and of course would be of no use in protecting their friends, in the enemies country. The Americans might hear of these supplies being sent to the Indians & the consequence would be fatal, perhaps to their whole Tribes. They would therefore rather suffer for want of ammunition, than endanger themselves or their families.

I am &c.

M. ELLIOTT

To Col. ALEXANDER STEWART

HOLMES TO BUTLER

FORT COVINGTON, March 10th, 1814

Historical Register IV, 4-9

SIR,

I have the honor to submit in writing, that the expedition sent under my command against the enemy's posts by your special orders of the 21st ultimo, had the good fortune on the 4th instant to meet and subdue a force double its own, fresh from the barracks, and led by a distinguished officer.

I had been compelled to leave the artillery, by the invincible difficulties of the route from Point au Plait to the Round O. No wheel carriage of any kind had ever attempted it before, and none will ever pass it until the brush and fallen timber are cut away, and the swamp causewayed or drained. After joining captain [William] Gill, I began the march for Fort Talbot, but was soon convinced of its being impossible to reach the post, in time to secure any force which might be there or adjacent. This conviction, united with the information that the enemy had a force at Delaware upon the Thames, that I should be expected at Fort Talbot, and consequently that a previous descent upon Delaware might deceive the foe, and lead him to expose me some point in defending others he might think menaced, and coupled with the possibility that hearing of captain Gill's march to the Round O, by M'Gregor's militia, whom he had pursued, a detachment had descended the Thames to intercept him, determined me to exercise the

discretion allowed by the order, and to strike at once upon the river.

On the 3d instant, when only fifteen miles from Delaware, we received intelligence that the enemy had left Delaware with the intention of descending the river, and that we should probably meet him in one hour; that his force consisted of a light company from the Royal Scots, mustering for duty 120 men; a light company from the 89th regiment of foot (efficiency not known); Caldwell's Indian and M'Gregor's militia: amounting all to about 300 men. My command originally had not exceeded 180 rank and file. Hunger, cold, and fatigue had brought on disease, and though none died, all were exceedingly depressed, and sixteen had been ordered home as unable to continue the march. I resolved therefore to avoid the conflict on equal grounds, and immediately retreated five miles for the sake of a good position, on the western bank of the Twenty Mile Creek, leaving Captain Gill with twenty rangers to cover the rear, and to watch the enemy's motions. We had encamped but a few minutes, when captain Gill joined, after exchanging shots with the enemy's advance, in vainly attempting to reconnoitre his force. The Twenty Mile Creek runs from north to south, through a deep and wide ravine, and of course, is flanked east and west by lofty heights. My camp was formed upon the western heights. The enemy's upon the opposite. During the night of the 3d all was quiet. At sun-rise on the 4th, the enemy appeared thinly upon the opposite hights, fired upon us without effect, and vanished. After waiting some time for their re-appearance lieutenant [John] Knox of the rangers was sent to reconnoitre. On his return, he reported that the enemy had retreated with the utmost precipitation, leaving his baggage scattered upon the road, and that his trail and fires made him out not more than seventy men. Mortified at the supposition of having retrograded from this diminutive force, I instantly commenced the pursuit, with the design of attacking Delaware before the opening of another day. We had not however proceeded beyond five miles, when captain [Stephen] Lee, commanding the advance, discovered the enemy in considerable force, arranging himself for battle. The symptons of fear and flight were now easily traced to the purpose of seducing me from the heights, and so far the plan succeeded. But the enemy failed

to improve the advantage. If he had thrown his chief force across the ravine above the road, and occupied our camp when relinquished, thus obstructing my communication to the rear, I should have been driven upon Delaware against a superior force, since found to be stationed, or forced to take the wilderness for Fort Talbot, without forage or provisions. Heaven averted this calamity. We soon regained the position at Twenty Mile Creek, and though the rangers were greatly disheartened by the retreat, and to a man insisted upon not fighting the enemy, we decided an exhibit to that spot the scene of death or victory.

I was induced to adopt the order of the hollow square, to prevent the necessity of evolution, which I knew all the troops were incompetent to perform in action. The detachments of the 24th and 28th infantry occupied the brow of the heights. The detachment from the garrison of Detroit formed the north front of the square, the rangers the west, and the militia the south. Our houses and baggage stood in the centre. The enemy threw his militia and Indians across the ravine above the road, and commenced the action with savage yells and bugles sounding from the north, west, and south. His regulars at the same time charged down the road from the opposite heights, crossed the bridge, and charged up the heights we occupied within twenty steps of the American line, and against the most destructive fire. But his front section was shot to pieces. Those who followed were much thinned and wounded. His officers were soon cut down, and his antagonists continued to evince a degree of animation that be-spoke at once their boldness and security. He therefore abandoned the charge, and took cover in the woods at diffused order, between fifteen, twenty, and thirty paces of our line, and placed all hope upon his ammunition.

Our regulars, being uncovered, were ordered to kneel that the brow of the heights might partly screen them from the enemy's view. The firing increased on both sides with great vivacity. But the crisis was over. I knew the enemy dared not uncover, and of course no second charge would be attempted. On the north, west, and south front the firing had been sustained with much coolness, and with considerable loss to the foe. Our troops on those fronts being protected by logs, hastily thrown together, and the enemy not charging

both the rifle and the musket were aimed at leisure, perhaps always told. The enemy at last became persuaded that Providence had sealed the fortune of the day. His cover on the east front was insufficient; for as he had charged in column of sections, and therefore, when dispersing on either side of the road, was unable to extend his flanks and as our regulars presented an extended front from the beginning, it is evident that a common sized tree could not protect even one man, much less the squads that often stood and breathed their last together; and yet upon his regulars the enemy relied for victory. In concert therefore, and favored by the shades of twilight, he commenced a general retreat after one hour's close and gallant conflict.

I did not pursue, for the following reasons. 1. We had triumphed against numbers and discipline, and were therefore under no obligation of honour to incur additional hazard. 2. In these requisites (numbers and discipline) the enemy were still superior, and the night would have insured success to an ambuscade. 3. The enemy's bugle sounded the close upon the opposite heights. If then we had pursued, we must have passed over to him as he did to us, because the creek could be passed on horseback at no other point, and the troops being fatigued and frost bitten, and their shoes cut to pieces by the frozen ground, it was not possible to pursue on foot. It follows, that the attempt to pursue would have given the enemy the same advantage that produced the defeat.

Our loss in killed and wounded amounted to a non-commissioned officer and six privates; but the blood of between 80 and 90 brave Englishmen, and among the 4 officers, avenged their fall. The commander, captain Barden of the 89th, is supposed to have been killed at an early stage of the contest. The whole American force in action consisted of one hundred and fifty rank and file, of whom seventy were militia, including the rangers. The enemy's regulars alone were from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty strong, and his militia and Indians fought upon three fronts of our square.

I am much indebted to all my regular officers, and trust their names will be mentioned to the army and to the war department. Without intending a discrimination it must be acknowledged that the exertions of lieutenant [John C.] Kouns and [William] Henry of the 28th and [Hezekiah] Jack-

son and [John C.] Potter of the 24th were most conspicuous, because fortune had opposed them to the main strength of the foe. Captain Lee of the Michigan dragoons was of great assistance before the action at the head of the advance and spies, and my warmest thanks are due to acting sailing-master Darling of the United States schooner Somers, who had volunteered to command the artillery. Ensign Heard of the 28th, acting as volunteer adjutant, merits my acknowledgments, and especially for his zeal in defending my opinion against a final retreat, when others permitted their hopes to sink beneath the pressure of the moment.

The enemy's wounded and prisoners were treated with the utmost humanity. Though some of our men were marching in their stocking feet, they were not permitted to take a shoe even from the dead.

I have the honor, to be with perfect respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. H. HOLMES
Captain 24th Infantry

Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] BUTLER, *commanding the Territory of Michigan and its dependencies*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

H. Q. Cincinnati, March 22nd, 1814

McAfee, *The Late War, 43-47*

SIR,

The tribes of Indians upon this frontier and east of the Mississippi, with whom the U. S. have been connected by treaty, are the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawanoese, Miamies, Potawatamies, Ottawas, Chippewas, Piankasshaws, Kaskaskias, and Sacs. All but the two last were in the confenderacy, which carried on the former Indian war against the United States, that was terminated by the peace of Greenville. The Kaskaskias were parties to the treaty, but they had not been in the war. The Wyandots are admitted by the others to be the leading tribe. They hold the grand calumet, which unites them and kindles the council fire. This tribe is nearly equally divided between the Crane at Sandusky, who is the grand Sachem of the nation, and Wal-in-the-Water at Brownstown, near Detroit. They claim the lands, bounded by the settlements of this state, southwardly and eastwardly; and by lake

Erie, the Miami river, and the claim of the Shawanoese upon the Auglaize, a branch of the latter. They also claim the lands they live on near Detroit, but I am ignorant to what extent.

The Wyandots of Sandusky have adhered to us through the war. Their chief, the Crane, is a venerable, intelligent, and upright man. Within the tract of land claimed by the Wyandots a number of Senecas are settled. They broke off from their own tribe six or eight years ago, but receive a part of the annuity granted that tribe by the U. States, by sending a deputation for it to Buffaloe. The claim of the Wyandots to the lands they occupy, is not disputed, that I know of by any other tribe. Their residence on it however, is not of long standing, and the country was certainly once the property of the Miamies.

Passing westwardly from the Wyandots, we meet with the Shawonese settlement at Stony creek, a branch of the big Miami, and at Wapockaunata on the Auglaize. These settlements were made immediately after the treaty of Greenville, and with the consent of the Miamies, whom I consider the real owners of those lands. The chiefs of this band of Shawanoese, Blackhoof, Wolf, and Lewis, are attached to us from principle as well as interest—they are honest men.

The Miamies have their principal settlements at the forks of the Wabash, thirty miles from fort Wayne; and at Mississineway, thirty miles lower down. A band of them under the name of weas, have resided on the Wabash sixty miles above Vincennes; and another under the Turtle on Eel river, a branch of the Wabash, twenty miles northwest of fort Wayne. By an artifice of the Little Turtle these three bands were passed on general Wayne as distinct tribes, and an annuity was granted to each. The Eel river and Weas however to this day call themselves Miamies, and are recognized as such by the Mississineway band. The Miamies, Maumees, or Tewicktovies, are the undoubted proprietors of all that beautiful country which is watered by the Wabash and its branches; and there is as little doubt, that their claim extended at least as far east as the Scioto. They have no tradition of removing from any other quarter of the country; where as all the neighboring tribes, the Piankishaws, excepted, who are a branch of the Miamies, are either intruders upon them, or have been

permitted to settle in their country. The Wyandots emigrated first from lake Ontario, and subsequently from lake Huron—the Delawares, from Pennsylvania and Maryland—the Shawanoese from Georgia—the Kickapoos and Potawatamies from the country between lake Michigan and the Mississippi—and the Ottawas and Chipewas from the penninsula formed by the lakes Michigan, Huron, and St. Clair, and the streight connecting the latter with Erie. The claims of the Miamies were bounded on the north and west by those of the Illinois confederacy, consisting originally of five tribes, called Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Peorians, Michiganians, and Temarois, speaking the Miami language, and no doubt branches of that nation.

When I was first appointed governor of Indiana Territory, these once powerful tribes were reduced to about thirty warriors, of whom twenty-five were Kaskaskias, four Peorians, and a single Michiganian. There was an individual lately alive at St. Louis, who saw the enumeration made of them by the Jesuits in the year 1745, making the number of warriors four thousand. A furious war between them and the Sacs and Kickapoos, reduced them to that miserable remnant, which had taken refuge amongst the white people of the towns of Kaskaskia and St. Genevieve. The Kickapoos had fixed their principal village at Peoria, upon the south bank of the Illinois river, whilst the Sacs remained masters of the country to the north.

During the war of our revolution, the Miamies had invited the Kickapoos into their country to assist them against the whites, and a considerable village was formed by that tribe on the Vermillion river near its junction with the Wabash. After the treaty of Greenville, the Delawares had with the approbation of the Miamies, removed from the mouth of the Auglaize to the head waters of White river, a large branch of the Wabash and the Potawatamies without their consent had formed two villages upon the latter river, one at Tippecanoe, and the other at Chippoy twenty-five miles below.

The Piankishaws lived in the neighbourhood of Vincennes, which was their ancient village, and claimed the lands to the mouth of the Wabash, and to the north and west as far as the Kaskaskians claimed. Such was the situation of the tribes, when I received the instructions of President Jefferson shortly

after his first election, to make efforts for extinguishing the Indian claims upon the Ohio, below the mouth of the Kentucky river, and to such other tracts as were necessary to connect and consolidate our settlements. It was at once determined, that the community of interests in the lands amongst the Indian tribes, which seemed to be recognized by the treaty of Greenville, should be objected to; and that each individual tribe should be protected in every claim that should appear to be founded in reason and justice. But it was also determined, that as a measure of policy and liberallty, such tribes as lived upon any tract of land which it would be desirable to purchase, should receive a portion of the compensation, although the title might be exclusively in another tribe. Upon this principle the Delawares, Shawanoese, Potawatamies, and Kickapoos were admitted as parties to several of the treaties. Care was taken however, to place the title to such tracts as it might be desirable to purchase hereafter, upon a footing that would facilitate the procuring of them, by getting the tribes who had no claim themselves, and who might probably interfere, to recognize the titles of those who were ascertained to possess them.

This was particularly the case with regard to the lands watered by the Wabash, which were declared to be the property of the Miamies, with the exception of the tract occupied by the Delawares on White river, which was to be considered the joint property of them and the Miamies. This arrangement was very much disliked by Tecumseh, and the banditti that he had assembled at Tippecanoe. He complained loudly, as well of the sales that had been made, as of the principle of considering a particular tribe as the exclusive proprietors of any part of the country, which he said the Great Spirit had given to all his red children. Besides the disaffected amongst the neighboring tribes, he had brought together a considerable number of Winebagoes and Folsovoins from the neighborhood of Green Bay, Sacs from the Mississippi, and some Ottawas and Chipewas from Abercrosh on Lake Michigan. These people were better pleased with the climate and country of the Wabash, than with that they had left.

The Miamies, resisted the pretensions of Tecumseh and his followers for some time, but a system of terror was adopted, and the young men were seduced by eternally placing before

them a picture of labor, and restriction as to hunting, to which the system adopted inevitably would lead. The Potawatamies and other tribes inhabiting the Illinois river and south of lake Michigan, had been for a long time approaching gradually towards the Wabash. Their country, which was never abundantly stocked with game, was almost exhausted of it. The fertile regions of the Wabash still afforded it. It was represented, that the progressive settlements of the whites upon the that river would soon deprive them of their only resource and indeed would force the Indians of that river upon them, who were already half starved.

It is a fact, that for many years the current of emigration, as to the tribes east of the Mississippi, has been from north to south. This is owing to two causes; the diminution of those animals from which the Indians procure their support; and the pressure of the two great tribes, the Chippewas and Sioux to the north and west. So long ago as the treaty of Greenville, the Potawatamies gave notice to the Miamies, that they intended to settle upon the Wabash. They made no pretensions to the country, and their only excuse for the intended aggression, was that "they were tired of eating fish, and wanted meat." It has been already observed that the Sacs had extended themselves to the Illinois river, and that the settlement of the Kickapoos at the Peorias was of modern date. Previously to the commencement of the present war, a considerable number had joined their brethren upon the Wabash. The Tawas from the Des Moins river have twice made attempts to get a footing here.

From these facts it will be seen, that it will be nearly impossible to get the Indians south of the Wabash to go beyond the Illinois river. The subject of providing an outlet to such of the tribes as it might be desirable to remove, has been under consideration for many years. There is but one. It was long since discovered by the Indians themselves, and but for the humane policy which has been pursued by our government, the Delawares, Kickapoos and Shawanoese would long since have been out of our way. The country claimed by the Osages abounds with everything that is desirable to a savage. The Indians of the tribes above mentioned have occasionally intruded upon them—a war was the consequence, which would soon have given a sufficient opening for emigration. But our

government interfered and obliged the hostile tribes to make peace.

I was afterward instructed to endeavour to get the Delawares to join that part of their tribe, which is settled on the west side of the Mississippi near Cape Girardeau. The attempt was unsuccessful at the time. I have no doubt however, that they could be prevailed on to move; but it ought not in my opinion to be attempted in a general council of the tribes.

The question of the title to the lands south of the Wabash has been thoroughly examined: every opportunity was afforded to Tecumseh and his party to exhibit their pretensions, and they were found to rest upon no other basis, than that of their being the common property of all the Indians. The Potawatamies and Kickapoos have unequivocally acknowledged the Miami and Delaware title. The latter as I before observed can I think be induced to remove. It may take a year or eighteen months to effect it. The Miamies will not be in our way. They are a poor, miserable, drunken set, diminishing every year. Becoming too lazy to hunt, they feel the advantage of their annuity. The fear of the other Indians has alone prevented them from selling their whole claim to the United States; and as soon as there is peace, or the British can no longer intrigue, they will sell. I know what inducements can be held out to the Wyandots to remove; they were not formerly under my superintendence, but I am persuaded that a general council would not be the place to attempt it.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

WM. H. HARRISON

CLAUS TO LORING

YORK 28th March 1814

Mich. Hist. and Pion. Soc. Pub. XV, 525

SIR

I received a letter yesterday from Colonel [Matthew] Elliott of the 25th Instant. I herewith transmit for the information of His Honor Lieut General Drummond. I have directed Colonel Elliott to send off the runners immediately to Marpock & the Potawatamies.

Col. Elliott ought to know the strength of the Nations that is said to have joined the Enemy, but I am at a loss to know

where they can have such a force. I know the Hurons are very weak & most of the Shawanese moved some years ago to the West of the Mississippi, the Delawares whose place of residence is on the Eel River near the head of the Wabashe are the strongest Nation, but the distance is so great that I should doubt very much their coming forward with the enemy. The want of Wampum is very great as no business can be done with Indians without it, a Requisition was send down more than twelve months ago for that article, but none was received.

I also put under cover a letter from Major Givins of the 23d instant addressed to me on the subject of Rations being issued to the families of officers of the Indian Department. I beg leave to submit the same to His Honor the president hoping that the same indulgence may be granted to the Indian Department that this order gives to the Staff & Army in the Country.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant.

W. CLAUS, *D. S. G.*

To Capt. ROBERT R. LORING

POSEY CONVENING ASSEMBLY

April 4, 1814

Western Sun, Apr. 16, 1814

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, congress has passed an act to establish the mode of laying off the territory of Indiana into districts for the election of its members of the legislative council;

Now be it known to all concerned that I, Thomas Posey, governor and commander in chief in and over the Indiana territory, by virtue of the above recited act, do issue this my proclamation, requiring that the members of the house of representatives of said territory do convene at Corydon, the seat of government, on Wednesday, the first day of June ensuing, then and there to take up the subject of the aforesaid act, agreeable to the intent and meaning thereof.

Given under my hand and seal at the town of Jeffersonville, this 4th day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1814.

TH: POSEY

JOHN JOHNSTON TO HUFFMAN

PIQUA, OHIO April 12, 1814

Har. Pa. 285, 286

DEAR SIR:

Agreeably to my promise made to you when last at this place, I now communicate the result of my enquiries after your chiled. I am sorry indeed that the prospect of getting him is so remote, had he remained in the custody of the Indians I would have had the happiness of shortly restoring him to you. [See Mar. 24 and Apr. 1, 1813, above]

The following is a true copy of a certificate which I yesterday received from Saint Joseph of Lake Michigan relative to my inquiries:

> We do hereby certify that we are known to a delivery made unto Captain Charles Roberts in the service of his Britance Majesty commanding at the Island of Mickelimackinac by Joseph Bailly a British Trader from the River Saint Joseph of a Prisoner Boy named Peter, (the surname unknown to us), about six years old, fair complexion, and sandy hair taken at the River Ohio, by Saw Omock or the yellow Beaver in the month of march 1813.
>
> (signed) JOHN W. BURNETTE
> (signed) ANTONE QUITMOT

dated mouth of the River SAINT JOSEPH March 20, 1814

Thus you see now it is out of my power to take any farther step for the recovery of your child he being now in the possession of the British, it is possible that Capt. Roberts motive in taking the child was a good one, and that he may intend to have him restored to his people.

I have thought that the best course to pursue under existing circumstances as Mackinac will probably be abandoned by the English this spring would be for you to apply to M. [Jonathan] Jennings the delegate from your Territory, or to Governor Posey, deliver this letter, and ask them to apply to the secretary of War, forwarding this letter at the same time to him, and procure the interference of the Government in your behalf, the proper course in my opinion would be to instruct the commanding general near the Head of Lake Ontario or on the Niagara Strait to apply to the British General com-

manding in that quarter, for the release of your son. Capt. Roberts will be somewhere in that country you ought to forward an accurate description of your son and this letter should accompany the same to the War office. I have no doubt small as the case is but the head of the War Department will interest himself for you. The presumption is if Capt. Roberts is ordered to evacuate the Fort at Mackinac he will take the boy down with him.

Wishing that you may soon have the happiness of beholding your child again I remain with much respect. [See Ketcham's narrative end of 1812 above]

Your most Ob. Servant

JOHN JOHNSTON, *Indian Agent*

Mr. BENJAMIN HUFFMAN near Charleston Clarke County Indiana Territory

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 21st. 1814

Har. Pa. 101, 102

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 30th ult. and 10th inst. [Not found] Of the *time* and *place* of holding the treaty, you will yourself decide—taking as your guides, the economy in the one case that may be found in delaying it until green forage will do away [with] the necessity for dry and the public safety as well as convenience in the other of holding it without the limits, but not remote from our own settlements. The President approves your ideas of not mingling with the question of peace any proposals for either buying or exchanging lands.

P. S. Capt. [John] O'Fallon may remain with you as your aid. The new law on this subject permits captains to be taken as the aids of Major Generals—Lieuts. of Brigadiers.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 22d, 1814

Har. Pa. 102, 104

SIR:

Mr. [B. G.] Orr, the contractor, has presented abstracts

to a considerable amount, on which monies have been advanced to him on account. Circumstances however induce a belief that a considerable quantity of the provision represented by these abstracts have been purchased by agents of your appointment and with public money advanced to them here. It is important that the fact in its whole extent and in its details should be ascertained and reported to this Department with as little delay as possible. Permit me to invite your attention to this subject and to hope from it the means of judging how far we have been and shall hereafter be safe in making advances to this contractor. Part of the information must come from Detroit.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 23d 1814

Har. Pa. 103

SIR:

I have the honor to inclose a letter from John Mason Esq. Comd. Genl. of Prisoners announcing the President's intention of releasing on parole the British Prisoners, hostages in Kentucky, Pittsburg &c. The object of this note is to ask you to assign some discreet officer of our army to accompany them on their march to the frontier; to indicate the route most convenient for them and for us, and the place at which they may be passed over to a post of the enemy. Can they go from Erie? or must they go to Niagara? The form of the parole to be signed by them is inclosed. The prisoners at Pittsburg will be retained until those coming from Kentucky will arrive there (Pittsburg). They will then go on together.

Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 25th 1814

Har. Pa. 105

SIR:

I have the honor to inclose the copy of an order [not found] sent directly to Detroit for the purpose of saving time in the arrangements necessary to its execution. I am &c. &c.

Major Genl. HARRISON

Secretary of War to Harrison

War Department April 29th 1814

Har. Pa. 106

Sir:

There are reasons for discontinuing all purchases made by commissaries. You will therefore be pleased to give your orders accordingly and direct supplies to be made by the contractor. The commissaries will send in their accounts for purchases made by them and accompany them by the necessary vouchers. If any abstracts for provisions of their procuring have been put into the hands of Mr. [B. G.] Orr, or of any Deputy of his, the amount will be reported.

Major Genl. Harrison

Harrison to Shelby

Head Quarters Cincinnatti May 2d 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 49

Dear Sir

The term of service for which the militia at Newport were called out being about to expire, I have to request of your Excellency to have detailed from the militia of your State, one Captain, one first Lieutenant one Second Lieutenant one third Lieutenant one Ensign five Sergeants, six Corporals, two musicians and ninety privates to relieve those now serving at New Port as a guard to the British Prisoners.

As the engagements of those now in service will expire about the 12 or 15 inst., it is important that the new detachment should be pushed on as soon as possible.

Until this day I had supposed that I had written to you before on this subject but upon examining my papers I find that I was mistaken

I am Dear Sir with great truth your devoted friend

Willm. Henry Harrison

His Excellency Isaac Shelby *Governor of Kentucky*

Shelby to Harrison

Frankfort 5th May 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 185

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt this moment of your fa-

vour of the 2nd inst., conformable to which I have issued my order to Major General Wm. E. Boswell to direct the organization and march from his Division as speedily as possible a detachment of militia to the amount of your requisition, for the purpose of guarding the British prisoners at New Port for another term of three months.

I have great doubts whether they can arrive in time to relieve those now on duty before the expiration of their term of service, but everything will be done (that can) to expedite their march—As those now on duty are volunteers and it being too late for them to engage in any business for the present season I think it most probable that they will cheerfully continue another tenor of ninety days or at least until they are duly relieved by the new guard—I have therefore directed Genl. Boswell to continue as many of the detachment now on duty as will consent to serve other ninety days.

With sentiments of sincere friendship and esteem I have the honor to be

your most obt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

His Excellency Major General WM. HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO THE PRESIDENT

Head-quarters, CINCINNATI, May 11, 1814

The Tippecanoe Text Book, 49 [*Niles' Register*]

DEAR SIR—I have this day forwarded to the secretary of war my resignation of the commission I hold in the army. [Not found]

This measure has not been determined on, without a reference to all the reasons which should influence a citizen, who is sincerely attached to the honor and interests of his country; who believes that the war in which we are engaged is just and necessary; and that the crisis requires the sacrifice of every private consideration, which could stand in opposition to the public good. But after giving the subject the most mature consideration, I am perfectly convinced, that my retiring from the army is as compatible with the claims of patriotism, as it is with those of my family, and a proper regard for my own feelings and honor.

I have no other motives in writing this letter than to as-

sure you, that my resignation was not produced by any diminution of the interests I have always taken in the success of your administration, or of respect and attachment for your person. The former can only take place, when I forget the republican principles in which I have been educated; and the latter, when I shall cease to regard those feelings, which must actuate every honest man, who is conscious of favors that it is out of his power to repay.

Allow me, etc.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

JAMES MADISON Esq. *President of U. S.*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, May 12, 1814

Har. Pa. 280

SIR:

For the better government, organization, and discipline of the Militia, I have laid off the Territory into three Divisions, six brigades, and twelve regiments, and have nominated the Major Generals and Brigadiers, a list of which I send on to be commissioned by the President of the U. S. agreeably to the provisions of the ordinance for regulating the Territories. Since the last return of the strength of the Territory there has been a very considerable augmentation and increase of the militia by a numerous imigration, and in the last return there is no mention of the Squadron of Cavalry, or of four Companies of Rangers. The increase of immigration which is very likely to continue very rapidly, and the return of the Rangers to the Militia will fully justify the arrangement. Not having any General officers appointed in the Territory, the Militia have been subjected to be commanded by General officers from the state of Kentucky, which has been a very considerable matter of complaint by them. I have arranged the officers as they are to take rank. For Major Generals I nominate Joseph Bartholomew first in rank, who will command the second Division. James Dill Second in rank to command the third Division, and Robert M. Evans third in rank to command the first Division. For Brigadier Generals first Division, first Brigade, Hugh McGary—1st Division 2nd brigade Walter Wilson—2nd division 3rd Brigade Joseph Paddocks,—Second Division fourth Brigade William McFarland—third Division, fifth Brigade James Noble—Third Division sixth Brigade

George Hunt—The commissions for the Brigadiers to be of the same date, who will take ranke agreeably to former services —The arrangement that I have made I think is for the good of the Service. There can be no doubt but it will have the effect to produce greater attention to discipline and give a considerable degree of consequence to the whole body of Militia.

I have the honor to be with respect your
humble Servant

TH. POSEY

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 14th 1814

Har. Pa. 107

SIR:

The inclosed copy of a letter to the President will sufficiently indicate the plan of campaign for the ensuing summer. Orders have been given by the Secretary of the Navy in conformity thereto, with the exception that two armed vessels and a detachment of Infantry, will prosecute the expedition against Makinaw.

It will be for you to direct the number of men to be retained as garrisons for Detroit and Malden. The residue will be held ready for the movement down the lake to Buffaloe whither will be taken also all that can be moved of the 17th 19th 24th and 28th regiments of infantry. Brigadier [Duncan] McArthur now relieved from Court Martial services may be designated for the command of these corps.

The adjutant general will transmit to you the new arrangement of the 17th and 19th regiments.

Accept sir the assurance of my great respect.

Maj. Genl. HARRISON

P. S. The President not having yet determined whether you shall act with, or without associates, in making the proposed treaty, your commission and instructions for that purpose are unavoidably delayed.

SHELBY TO THE PRESIDENT

FRANKFORT, May 15, 1814

Tippecanoe Text Book, 49 [Niles' Register]

DEAR SIR:

The interest I feel for the prosperity of our beloved coun-

try, at all times, but especially in the common cause in which she is at present engaged, will, I flatter myself, be a sufficient apology for addressing you this letter. The motives which impel me, arise from considerations of public good, and are unknown to the gentleman who is the subject of the letter.

It is not my intention to eulogize general Harrison; he is not in need of that aid, his merits are too conspicuous not to be observed; but it is my intention to express to you with candor, my opinion of the general, founded on personal observation.

A rumor has reached this state, which, from the public prints, appears to be believed, that the commanding general of the northern army may be removed from that command. The circumstance has induced me to reflect on the subject, and give the decided preference to major-general Harrison, as a successor. Having served a campaign with general Harrison, by which I have been enabled to form some opinion of his military talents, and capacity to command, I feel no hesitation to declare to you, that I believe him to be one of the first military characters I ever knew; and, in addition to this, he is capable of making greater personal exertions than any officer with whom I have ever served. I doubt not but it will hereafter be found, that the command of the north-western army, and the various duties attached to it, has been one of the most arduous and difficult tasks ever assigned to any officer in the United States; yet he surmounted all.

Impressed with the conviction, that general Harrison is fully adequate to the command of the northern army, should a change take place in that division, I have ventured thus freely to state my opinion of him, that he is a consummate general, and would fill that station with ability and honor; and that if, on the other hand, any arrangement should take place in the war department, which may produce the resignation of general Harrison, it will be a misfortune which our country will have cause to lament. His appointment to the command of the northern army would be highly gratifying to the wishes of the western people, except some who may, perhaps, be governed by sinister views.

I confess the first impressions upon my mind, when informed of the defeat of colonel [William] Dudley's regiment, on the 5th of May last, were unfavorable to general Harrison's

plans; but on correct information, and a knowledge of his whole plans, I have no doubt but they were well concerted, and might, with certainty, have been executed had his orders been strictly obeyed. I mention this subject because Mr. H. Clay informed me that he had shown you my letter, stating the impressions which that affair had first made upon my mind, on information that was not correct.

Hoping that my opinion of this meritorious officer will not be unacceptable to you, I have candidly expressed it, and hoping the apology stated in the preceding part of this letter, will justify the liberty taken of intruding opinions unsolicited.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant.

ISAAC SHELBY

His Ex. JAMES MADISON, *Pres U. S.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 24th 1814

Har. Pa. 108

SIR:

Your letters of the 10th and 11th instant have been received. [Not found] Your resignation has been communicated to the President who is now on a visit in Virginia.

As soon as the Commission is returned from the President, it will be transmitted, with the necessary instructions for holding the proposed treaty with the Indians.

Col. R. M. Johnson and the Hon. Jeremiah Morrow will be associated with you in this mission of which they are advised and requested to communicate with you relative to the place of meeting.

Major Lownsly of the Canadian Militia who has been recently made prisoner should be retained until further orders.

Maj. General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 28th, 1814

Har. Pa. 109

SIR:

Your resignation is accepted to take place on the 31st instant as you requested and Genl. [Duncan] McArthur is accordingly ordered to take command of the District.

I beg you Sir, to accept the assurance of my great Respect.
Major Genl. HARRISON

COL. ROBERT MCDOUALL TO INDIANS

MICHILLIMACINAC June 5, 1814
Mich. Hist. and Pion. Soc. Pub. XV, 581

MY CHILDREN:

I embrace the opportunity when we are here met to celebrate the Birth Day of the King, your great Father, to reply to the words which you lately addressed to me; on this happy occasion, I am proud to see such an assemblage of distinguished Chiefs & Warriors around me, many of whom have already signalized their valor in his service during this war. I thank you all for your past services, but particularly for the proof of loyalty and attachment you have shown in hastening to the defence of the Island when threatened by the enemy. You have now proved that you merit the benevolence & kindness with which your Great Father has always treated you; be assured that the interests of his red children will never be forgotten by him, that he will keep his word & the promises which he has made you.

My Children, Listen to my words, that I may make you acquainted with the auspicious events which have lately taken place. Your Great Father Sir George Prevost has received powerful reinforcements, and is at the Head of a large Army of Your White Brethren, who have again defeated the Americans, in another attempt to invade Lower Canada. Kingston and Fort George are now places of great strength, and contain formidable Garrisons; we are in possession of the whole Niagara Frontier and also of its harbour which the enemy last year found so advantageous. Our Fleets on Lake Ontario are also more numerous, and stronger than those of the Enemy, the important Fort of Oswego has lately been taken from them by our ships, while theirs dare not stir from the shelter of their harbours.

My children, Everything looks well for us, the black & louring clouds that spread darkness around us are dispersed, and we have once more over our heads a clear and serene sky. The Great Spirit shines on our just cause, but frowns on that of the deceitful Americans, because they have cruelly

oppressed you, they have robbed you of those lands which you inherited from your brave ancestors, and still they are not satisfied, the fertile Country which they have usurped, only encrease their appetite for fresh encroachments, and you will gradually be driven toward the sitting sun.

My Children You possess the Warlike spirit of your Fathers you can only avoid this horrible fate, by joining hand in hand with my warriors in first driving the Big Knives from this Island, & again opening the great road to your country. I shall then be enabled liberally to supply your wants; You will once more see the Traders in your Villages, with Ammunition for yourselves, and clothing for your women & children; the days of your prosperity will return, and the songs and the dance be again heard in your land.

My children, The time is favourable for this, and will soon arrive. The King your great Father has destroyed his foes on the other side of the big Lake; He is now the most powerful monarch in the world; and has no other Enemy but the Americans. You know we were often victorious over them when but few in numbers, how then will they stand against the invincible Warriors & the mighty Fleets which are now coming against them? Already they tremble at the thoughts of this, and know not which way to turn to escape the tremendous vengence which they know they have deserved. They are conscious that resistance is vain, and that their power compared to that of King George, is like dust before the wind. They therefore wish to lay down the Tomahawk & treat for peace.

My Children, I have heard of the message which the American have lately sent to your red Brethren; it is sufficiently humiliating, for it acknowledges their incapacity to carry on the war with the King Your Great Father; it likewise shows their usual disregard to truth, for they say that when a peace is made, he will withdraw, from you, and that they then will punish all those who do not now renounce our friendship.

My Children, When these perfidious people fail in war, they try to succeed by artifice & cunning, qualities to which they excel all other nations. You must therefore beware how you are deceived by their stratagems, which is meant to sow dissention among the tribes, in order that one after the other, they more easily become the victims of their treachery.

My Children, I again ask, which of you can be so blind &

infatuated, as not to see that the big Knives will never be satisfied, until they possess all your lands and destroy you root and branch from the face of the earth. They have no pity for you, and openly avow this wicked intention. Which of you do not know that it is the powerful protection of the King your great Father, which has hitherto saved you from this miserable fate, and which can only save you from it in future.

My Children, Listen well to my words, none of you must be misled by this deceitful message, for it will be dangerous for you to go astray into the wrong road, and difficult for you to return. What is there in it but a convincing proof that the power of the Enemy is on the decline and instead of intimidating your young men, should inspire them with fresh courage to get back their old boundaries & restore the days of plenty and happiness among you; Listen again my children, the time is at hand when these great blessings can be recovered.

My Children Should the King your great Father deign to listen to the proposal which the Enemy have made for peace, it will be on the express condition that your interests shall be first considered, your just claims admitted and no infringements of your rights permitted in future.

My Children doubt not but this will be the case. The King your great Father has assured you that he will never abandon his red children whom he has so long fostered and adopted. The Great Chief at Quebec, Sir George Prevost has also given his word to the same effect, this ought to set your minds at rest upon the subject, for they are not the promises of the faithless Americans but of those who hate duplicity and falsehood.

My Children I opened my ears and listened attentively to the words which you addressed to me. I was moved with compassion when you told me of your want and distresses last winter, and that some of the supplies intended for you did not reach you owing to the distance. Now that you are here, I will endeavour to make up as well as I can for the disappointment and to give you proofs of my esteem, and of the confidence which I place in your valor and courage.

My Children I am highly pleased that you have listened to the wise councils of your friend and chief the Red Head, whose constant study is for your advantage and to do you

good. Your Great Father at Quebec has confidence in him, and in appointing him your chief, has given you a strong proof of his paternal regard.

My Childn I wish you to show your gratitude by obeying him in all things that he wishes you to do. I recommend to you that the utmost friendship and harmony prevail among the different tribes, and that the young men do not disgrace themselves by any disturbance or impropriety of conduct. It is proper that they should listen to the voice of their Chiefs & of thier Fathers, & derive instructions from their Council and experience.

My Children I am delighted with what your Great Chief the Red Head has told me; that in your wars with the Big Knives you have been equally distinguished by your bravery in the field and by your mercy to the vanquished; that in no one instance has their helpless women and children sustained an injury. Let me exhort you to a continuance of this praiseworthy act, which is the more meritorious on your part, considering the provocation which the enemy have given you.

My Children Happy are those warrors who rush into the fight, having justice upon their side. You go forth to combat for the tombs of your forefathers and for those lands, which ought now to afford shelter and sustenance to your wives and children. May the Great Spirit give you strength and courage in so good a cause, and crown you with victory in the day of Battle.

Lt. Col. ROBERT MCDOUALL

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 23 June 1814

Har. Pa. 283

SIR:

You will receive inclosed a letter [April 12 above] from Mr. John Johnston Indian agent to Mr. Benjn. Huffman an inhabitant of this Territory relative to a child of his taken by the Indians. If you can be instrumental in regaining the child, it will be a very humane and friendly act in restoreing him to his parents. The discription recited in Mr. Johnston letter, I am informed by Wm. Huffman answers to that of his child except the hair is of a shade between red and yellow.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedient Servt.

TH. POSEY

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT June 28th 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 112

MY DEAR SIR:

I had the pleasure last evening to receive your favour of the 27th inst., Soon after I wrote you last I was determined to accept of the Mission to treat with the North W. Indians in that determination I was a good deal influenced by the pleasure I should derive of acting once more with you for the interest of our country But the constitutional Barrier which has since presented itself has made me decline all thoughts of the journey of which I have already advised the president of the United States of my determination.

The 17th section of the 6th article of the Constitution of Kentucky declares in express terms that "No person holding or exercising any office of trust or profit under the United State shall hold or exercise any office of trust or profit under this Commonwealth." The office of a Commissioner to treat with the Indians is an office of trust and the necessity of commission from the president (which I have received) is the strongest evidence of the fact.

I have not a single doubht but my acceptance of the Commission to treat with the Indians would vacate the office of Governor of Kentucky and altho, I care very little about this office I wish I was rid of it upon Honourable terms—I would not do an act by which my Country might be thrown into a state of confusion & distraction—for there are not wanting amongst us men enough ready to lay hold of any pretext to disturb the public mind—when you have reflected on these subjects you will I have no doubt think that my objection to accept the m ssion is well founded. That your efforts to serve your Country in the arduous task before you may be crowned with real advantages to her interests and with honour to yourself is the sincere prayer of My Dear Sir your very affectionate friend & most obt. servant.

ISAAC SHELBY

Major Genl. WM. HENRY HARRISON

P. S. present me respectfully to Governor Cass—

THOMAS POSEY

Thomas Posey, second and last Territorial Governor of Indiana, was a neighbor of the Washingtons and Harrisons of Virginia. He was born near Alexandria, July 9, 1750. In 1774 he joined the Dunmore expedition against the Ohio Indians, marching under General Lewis to the field of Point Pleasant, where he distinguished himself in that bloody battle, October 10, 1774. The following year he helped his patriotic neighbors drive Governor Dunmore out of Virginia. During the Revolution he was in the service continuously—under Washington in New Jersey, under Morgan at Saratoga, under Sullivan against the Iroquois, under Washington at Monmouth, under Wayne at Stony Point, under Washington at Yorktown—and made an honorable record.

February 22, 1793, he was appointed a Brigadier General and joined the army, under his old commander, Wayne, in Ohio. December 19, 1798, he was appointed a land commissioner in Virginia. About 1800 he came to Kentucky and became a member of the legislature. Just before the war of 1812 he moved to Louisiana and soon after was appointed a United States senator to finish the unexpired term of Senator Destrihan.

February 14, 1813, President Madison appointed Posey governor of Indiana territory. He served till Indiana became a state, December, 1816, when he became Indian agent on the Wabash. He died at Shawneetown, Illinois, March 19, 1818.

Posey Convening Assembly

Jeffersonville July 16 1814

Western Sun, July 23, 1814

PROCLAMATION

Whereas circumstances of a nature highly important to the welfare and interest of the territory, render it necessary that the Legislature should be convened at an earlier period than is fixed and prescribed by law. Therefore, I Thomas Posey, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Indiana Territory, do issue this my Proclamation, Requiring the attendance of the members of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of said territory, who may be elected at the ensuing election on the first Monday in August next, to meet at the town of Corydon, the seat of government, on Monday the 15th day of August next, at which time will be laid before them for their consideration, such subjects as will require their attention.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at Jeffersonville, this 16th day of July, 1814.

Th. Posey.

Posey to General Assembly

Corydon, August 15, 1814

Mss. in Secretary of State's Office
Western Sun, August 27, 1814

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

The circumstances which have been considered to exist by the passage of a law at the last session of the legislature, entitled "An act reorganizing the courts of justice", have constrained me to convene the legislature at the present period, believing it to be necessary that the law should undergo a reconsideration and amendment; or make such other arrangements as in the discretion of the legislature may be thought advisable.

The present existing law reorganizing the courts of justice has not only been thought defective by the judges of the superior court, but by a number of law characters, and others, men of information and experience. Some of the courts have

been partially organized, and in some counties there has been no court established under the present law, and none of the courts have proceeded to do business considered of any material consequence. That, taking into consideration the grievances the citizens of the territory labour under in the delay, and stop put to the proceedings of the courts, I have thought it my indispensable duty to convene the legislature as early as possible after the election.

It may also be advisable that the militia law should undergo a reconsideration. The mode of calling out the militia into actual service in time of invasion is not so clearly defined as it may be, and by a reconsideration, other defects probably may be discovered which may make it necessary to amend. At all times it is necessary to have the militia well organized and kept in good training, but particularly at the present crisis of the state of affairs, so interesting to the U. States. Peace may take place between the U. States and G. Britain, at a short period, but from recent circumstances that have taken place in Europe, I am of opinion that peace is much more remote than many calculate upon; and the best way to have an honorable peace is to be well prepared for war. I do not despair of obtaining an honorable peace, neither have I a want of confidence in the administration of our general government, or in the disposition of our citizens at large to risk their lives and property for the security of our just rights. God will protect our country if the citizens have virtue, and will lay their shoulders to the wheels of government. Better would it be for the credit of our nation to wage a perpetual war, than be disgraced by a relinquishment of the rights of freemen.

The length of the present session depends upon yourselves; you can make it long or short, as may best comport with the interest of our territory. I shall not only feel it a duty incumbent upon me to coöperate with you, but it will be a pleasure for me to do so, and to render every possible service for the public good. In the course of your deliberations, I recommend harmony, & wish you a pleasant session.

TH: POSEY

Posey to General Assembly

Corydon August 18, 1814

Western Sun, September 3, 1814
Mss. in Secretary of State's Office

To the Honourable President and Members of the Legislative Council:

It is with much pleasure I observe in your answer to my communication that my conduct in convening the legislature at the present period meets your approbation, and that you approve of the several subjects offered for your consideration.

I am of opinion with you, that the law reorganizing the courts of justice is far from being so defective as many have considered, and as has been handed out to the community; and I am of opinion that had the courts been organized to the extent that was contemplated when passed, that it would have been attended with happy consequences and given very general satisfaction.

In the course of your deliberations to provide a remedy for our present deranged judiciary, I have full confidence that you will use every exertion in your power to have the best possible system that you can devise, to secure to our citizens their just rights of life, liberty, and property. I receive with pleasure your sincere wish for my happiness, and most sincerely hope and wish you may individually and collectively enjoy health and prosperity.

I am, with perfect respect and regard, your obt. servt.

Th: Posey

Isaac Shelby to Thomas Posey

Charlestown September 15th 1814

Mss. in Indiana State Library

His Excellency Thomas Posey
Governor and Commander in Chief of Inda Tery

Sir

Not having saw Colo [Joseph] Bartholomew last evening as I expected in consequence of it being late in the evening as I passed, I this day called to see the Colo and communicated to him the subject of our conversation when I was last in your Company—Upon which the Colo observed that in Justice he could not feel himself sufficiently qualified to fill that Office,

and discharge the duties which would be incumbent upon him, And at the same time requested me to return his warmest thanks to you for the high Consideration your Excellency entertained of him &c; The Colo then observed there were men in the County he thought better qualified for that Office than himself, and Particularly named Judge [William] Goodwin, as he had heretofore filled the Office of a Judge in our Former Court of Common Pleas, which Office he had Honorably filled, and as Mr. Goodwin had experience and was also Better qualified than himself, he, would certainly much rather Judge Goodwin would be named to your Excellency—when I discovered that the Colo was averse to it, I Rode over to Judge Goodwin's, to whom I expressed the Colos. wish &c. and as the Judge had been named also to you, I solicited Mr. Goodwin upon the occasion, who expressed much reluctance to accept, having heretofore spent a considerable length of time in discharging the duties of a member of the Court, and would rather some other person could be had that was Better qualified—

However the Judge after some consideration observed he was never unwilling to serve his Countrey in any way that he thought he could render them any kind of good—And that if your Excellency should think proper to confer on him the appointment he would with pleasure accept &c

Not presuming to Dictate to your Excellency I feel no kind of doubt in saying that Judge Goodwin [appointed Sept. 17, 1814] will Honourably fill the Office should you think proper to appoint him—

With Sentiments of high consideration I am &c

ISAAC SHELBY

POSEY TO WILLIAM POLKE

JEFFERSONVILLE 15th September 1814

Polke Mss. furnished by Mrs. Rumely

DR. SIR:

I herewith enclose to you the commission for the Associate Judge for the county of Knox, & a commission for coroner of Sd. county, also a commission for Isaac Blackford Esqr. as circuit Judge of the 1st District, & a commission for yourself to administer the oath of office.

I have no blanks in the office at present for Justice of the

Peace, we were expecting them from the printer every day, as soon as they come to hand I shall a commission for W. McNamee as Justice of the Peace. After your clerk is commissioned & taken the oath of office &c. he will have the power to administer oaths of office. As soon as your Judges have taken the oaths of office I wish them to proceed immediately to make choice of a Clerk of the Circuit Court & send on the nomination as soon as possible [see Oct. 4, below].

Yours very respectfully

THS. POSEY

Endorsed on back: WILLIAM POLKE Knox County

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 16th Sept. 1814

Har. Pa. 293

SIR:

Friendly Indians in a small number have resided at Vincennes nearly 10 months, and there is an addition made to them at different times now making the number 17, some of which are found to be very useful in scouting and following after Indians who at times commit depredations on the frontiers and near to Vincennes. I have ordered that rations should be furnished them, also some necessary clothing. It is expected that more will come in. I wish to be advised upon the subject. It will be necessary to appoint some person to attend to them. Mr. Joseph Barron Indian interpretor for this Territory would be a proper person. He resides at Vincennes.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

General JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

WILLIAM POLKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES, October 4th 1814

Mss. furnished by Mrs. Fannie S. Rumely

SIR

I have received commissions of the Circuit Judges Mr. [Isaac] Blackford, Circuit Judge Daniel Sullivan and James B. McCall associate Judges [see below] and proceeded to ad-

minister the oath of office to the associate judges on the 21st of September at which time I communicated that part of your Excellency's letter to the Judges wishing them to proceed immediately to the nomination of a clerk of the Circuit Court the Associates after consultation proceeded to the nomination of a Clerk as it was uncertain whether the nomination could with safety be delayed untill the arrival of Mr. Blackford at Vincennes as the Court Came on within a few days and I informed the Judges that in a conversation with Mr. Blackford on the Subject he had informed me Stranger as he was at Vincennes he should concur in the nomination of the Associates for a Clerk, on the same evening Mr. [Robert] Bunton one of the Candidates for the Clerkship presented a petition addressed to your Excellency signed by a number of respectable characters praying his appointment as Clerk and wished my signature to which I declined observing to him that I wished not to interfere in favor as they observed to Mr. Bunton that your Excellency had authorized the Judges to nominate a Clerk and advised him to present his petition to the Judges for their consideration and Received for an answer that he had a similar petition for the Judges and that Sending the same to your Excellency would do no harm or words to that amount. I then returned Home Satisfied in having Done my Duty and yesterday morning early came to this place in order to administer the oaths of office to Mr. Blackford and the Clerk so that no neglect of mine should impede the courts proceeding to Business on my arrival I proceeded to administer the oath of office to Mr. Blackford. When he informed me your Excellency had enclosed a Blank Commission for the Clerk and authorized him to fill up the same which on mature reflection he had Declined and informed your Excellency thereof I sincerely regrett the course this Business has taken as at the time the Delegation from Knox wished you to postpone the appointment of Clerk untill the Judges should nominate one and you was so obliging as to accede to their wishes no difficulty was expected from that course of proceedure as from the communication. I expect you will receive by this mail your Excellency will be in full possession of all the circumstances necessary to be known. I hope you will proceed to the appointment as soon as possible as the County is suffering seriously for the want of such an officer

particularly several Estates within my knowledge who cannot obtain Letters of administration before the appointment and it is all important the stock should be sold as soon as possible which must be my excuse for troubling your Excellency at this time. I remain your Sincere friend [see Sept. 15 above].

WM. POLKE

His Excellency THOS. POSEY.

P.S. The Associate Judges wishes me to inform your Excellency that Mr. Bunton laid the petition mentioned above before them and they took the same under consideration in their nomination.

SHELBY TO POSEY

FRANKFORT Octr 31st

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 219

SIR

I have the honor of inclosing herewith a Copy of an indictment against one Isaac Holeman, who I am informed has fled from Jefferson County [Ky.] to your territory—in persuance of the Act of Congress in such case provided I have to request of your Excellency to have him arrested, and information thereof communicated to me that he may be brought to trial.

Should it be found more convenient you may, in case of his arrest, cause him to be delivered to any person designated by Judge Cosby.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully
Your mo. obt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

His Excy. THOMAS POSEY *Govr. of Indiana*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND. TER. 3 Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 295

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you the copy of a letter which I received by express from Joseph Barron Indian Interpreter at Vincennes. In my answer to him I have ordered the friendly Indians to be received and furnished with rations and a present of some trifling things and a few blankets should they

stand in need of them. I have likewise given orders to assign to them a proper place for an encampment, near to wood and water and have ordered that a commissioned officer from the Militia of conciliating disposition and friendly disposed guard should be stationed near their encampment for the purpose of protecting the Indians from evil disposed men, and to keep order and prevent their stealing from or insulting any of the inhabitants. It is necessary to appoint an agent to attend minutely to the wants and necessaries of those Indians and receive all friendly Indians that may come in. I have made a temporary appointment of Joseph Barron, Indian interpreter to discharge the duties assigned.

I wish to receive instructions from the department of war relative to the foregoing subject, and such other circumstances as may occur relative to Indian affairs. There has been for 12 months or more 17 friendly Indians at Vincenns under my protection, who have received regular supplies of provisions and some articles of clothing. Of this circumstance, I gave information to Gen. Armstrong secretary of war and requested that he would instruct me upon the subjects as well as to any other friendly Indians that might come in.

I also wrote to him that there was clothing which had been deposited and which was in charge of the former Governor, that all the blankets which had been delivered to Gen. [Samuel] Hopkin's militia agreeable to orders (Genl. [John] Gibson informs me) but as to the validity of the orders I am not informed. All the woollens are also given out and what now remains, are muslins, callicoes, shawles and trifling articles all much dammaged. There are some saddles and keggs of powder etc. I am of opinion much waste has been made, but if the few articles on hand were sold they would bring something to the public whereas by keeping they probably will be a total loss. I have never received an answer from the department of war either upon the subject of Indian affairs, or the Indian goods and if convenient should be glad to be advised.

I am very respectfully your
Obedient Servant.

TH. POSEY

Hon. JAMES MONROE *Secretary of War*
City of WASHINGTON

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JFEEFRSONVILLE Ind. Ter. 12th Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 302, 303

SIR:

About a week since, by last mail, from this I wrote to you upon the subject of Indian affairs and enclosed to you a letter from Joseph Barron Indian Interpreter at Vincennes, respecting the subject.

I have this moment received by mail a letter from Judge B. Parks of Vincennes, giving me information that upon the notice given by Little Eyes a chief mentioned in Barron's letter inclosed to you [see above] of the encampment of Mainpolle's [Marpack's] Potawatomies, who have been commiting considerable depredations in the neighbourhood of Vincennes and Fort Harrison, and now encamped on the road to St. Josephs on Yellow creek at a place call'd the great cut off 90 miles above Ft. Harrison, 40 in number that Capt. [Pierre] Andre commanding a company of Rangers at Vincennes, a brave and determined officer, set out on an expedition the 6th Inst., with two hundred rangers and mounted men and 25 days provisions in order to strike at Mainpolles encampment, or where he and his party may be found. He has taken with him Little Eyes or a petit onounted, who was desirous of accompanying the expedition also Joseph Barron Interpreter. Should Capt. Andre be fortunate in falling in with Mainpolle and his Indians, I have no doubt of his success.

Capt. [William] Russell who commanded at Vincennes upon being informed of the death of Brig. Genl. [Benjamin] Howard, went on immediately to St. Louis to take command there.

You will please to answer my letter of the 3d inst addressed to you upon the subject relative to instructions respecting the reception of Indians who may come in proffesing friendship. They must be fed, and have some necessary clothing furnished at expense of the public. Should it be thought proper to have an agent appointed for the purpose of attending to their necessities any instruction which I may receive shall be duly discharged.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

Col. JAMES MONROE *Secretary of War*

CITY OF WASHINGTON

BARRON TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 12 1814

Har. Pa. 297-298

merely with a view of getting near Vincennes for the purposes of trade and friendly intercourse. They further stated that there were many other families or large parties equally anxious to come in, could they only have assurance of being well received, among which a camp of Kickapoos of about 20 cabbins residing north of Tippecanoe. Upon this conference it was determined that Little Eyes should be detained until your pleasure in the case should be known but as they had promised their family to return in eight days, and warned them in case they did not, to ascribe their absence to some fatal accident or occurrence and immediately to break up their camp and fly back, it was deemed expedient that Tacko set out tomorrow in order that he may reach them before the time expires. I shall continue to support and protect Little Eyes, and any other friendly Indians that may come in, in conformity with your directions, and shall expect your farther command in this relation. I would further beg leave respectfully to suggest to you the propriety of making some trifling present to each one that may com in provided there be proper deportment. Not that they have hinted that any such thing is desired or ecpected, but merely as a measure dictated by policy.

I presume one or more of the officers will furnish you with a corresponding narative. and now sir, after having done what I conceived to be my duty in this business I respectfully await your dictates as to the best means of bringing repentant enemies over to peace and amity, and your orders as to the part I am to act therein.

I have the honor to be very respect
Your Obt. Servt. JOSEPH BARRON
Indian Interpreter

P. S.

Little Eyes gives information that the friendly Kickapoos already mentioned are in two parties, one about 12 miles above Tippecanoe and the other about 16 miles farther and that about 60 miles from them on the road to St. Josephs on

Yellow Creek at a place called the Great Cutoff is a band of about 40 Potawatomie warriors under Mainpoke and that these are the Indians that have killed our men and stole their horses at Ft. Harrison and the neighbourhood. The information comes through the Kickapoos mentioned who state that they have a small prairie full of horses. That they slip out from their hiding place and sell the horses, come down here, get a resupply, return with them etc. Now as it appears that we have enemies on the north, it seems to me a measure of indespensible caution and in this I have the concurrence of all with whom I have conversed, that in order to distinguish between the friend and the foe, that all Indians that are received as friendly be place on our West or south, say Embarras, little Wabash, or White river, near the mouth in all which places game is abundant. This point is with deference submitted. [Fragment.]

J. B.

Benjamin Parke to Posey

Vincennes, Ind. Ter. 13th. Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 299-301

Sir:

Capt. [Frederick] Sholts and Lt. [Hyacinth] LaSsell arrived from Fort Harrison this evening.

About the time Capt. [Pierre] Andre marched from this place, Lieut. LaSsell crossed the country to White river for Little eyes people and with them (10 or 12 warriors and 20 woman and children) joined the Captain at Ft. Harrison. Two Miamies who came to Little eyes camp, while the latter was here, gave Capt. Andre the following information. That there are about two hundred Kickapoos, warriors and a few Potawatomies on the Virmillion about three hundred Potawatomies at Tippecanoe and other bands of that tribe scattered from there to the Chicago and other posts of the enemy. The Kickapoos, in part are represented as friendly and the greater portion of the Potawatomies decidedly hostile. About the 1st of Oct. a number of these Kickapoos and Potawatomies received a considerable present of ammunition and clothing from a British trader near Chicago and the last of this month another supply was promised from the same place. The repulse of [George] Croghan at Mackinac, and the capture of Prairea De Chain were passed upon those Indians as sure

prognostigations of future success and that next spring. Detroit, and Vincennes were to be taken.

That the British were using every exertion to keep the Indians steady to their interest—and promised the establishment of a post at or near Chicago that the few Potawatomies that visited at Greenville at the treaty were advised to that step by the British to get powder and ball, to be used against our people on their return—And that the Kickapoos being questioned as to their motive in going to the British at Chicago, answered, that their father, the President was too sparing of his presents.

Lieut. Lassell has known the Miamies who gave this information for ten or twelve years; and has great confidence in their integrity. Capt. Andre believing his force much too small to march into the Indian country as intended, halted at Ft. Harrison and yesterday dispatched Little Eyes to the Kickapoos, to ascertain more precisely their intention.

Lassell believes that the Weas (upwards of two hundred souls) and probably a part of the Kickapoos will come in and a prospect of a small supply of ammunition and clothing will no doubt induce some of the Indians really hostile to profess peace and claim our protection, and their wants supplied for the winter, desert and turn their arms against us in the spring. Under these circumstances I must beg the favor of more precise instruction than I have yet reed. What place is to be assigned for the residence of the Indians that may come in? and what is the nature and extent of the supplies with which you wish them furnished? If they are fixed beyond the settlements where they might derive a partial subsistence from hunting, they will not only keep the frontiers in alarm, but they will themselves be liable to injury by mischievous white people, and however well disposed, any ill treatment from us, would occasion their instantly rejoining the hostile Indians. If brought within the settlements, they will be an intolerable expense to the Government but probably it may be cheaper to feed and clothe them than to wage war against them.

In regard to the Indians generally, whilst the British, or their agents have access to them, they will never remain at peace with us and should the Miamies remain in the Indian country this winter, they will, if not from inclination, at least from a dread of the Potawatomies be again at war with us next spring. Possibly it might be best for peace not to be

made with, or any protection afforded any of the Indians, but upon condition of their entering into our service, and sending their women and children within our settlements. We would then have a strong pledge for their fidelity, and their services against the hostile Indians might be rendered eminently useful.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir Your Obt. Svt.

Governor POSEY B. PARKE

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE Ind. Ter. 18th Nov. 1814.

Har. Pa. 304, 305

SIR:

I am of opinion from recent information that the Indians are about to become extremely troublesome upon our frontier.

I have by express just received a letter [Nov. 13 above] from Judge Benj. Park of Vincennes a copy of which I herewith inclose to you.

I have written very lately to you upon Indian affairs, and requesting your instructions upon that subject you will discover in a considerable degree from Judge Parks letter what may be necessary to be done. Untill I receive instructions from the department of war I have authorized Judge Parke and Mr. Tusaint Dubois both residents in and near Vincennes to receive the friendly Indians and have them encamped at some suitable distance (near to wood and water) from Vincennes to have them supplied with rations by the contractor, authorizing him to issue provisions for the Indians; and do for the Indians that may come in, whatever may appear for the best advantage to promote the public welfare. Should you think it necessary to appoint an agent to attend to these friendly Indians that may come in to Vincennes, I could recommend Mr. Tusaint Dubois who is a man very much respected and to be relied on, who has been an old Indian trader, is well acquainted with a great many of them; speaks the Indian language, and has been a resident at Vincennes for at least thirty or more years. It will be necessary that supplies of provision some articles of clothing and some ammunition be ordered for them.

I am very respectfully yours

Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 18, 1814

Har. Pa. 309-314

SIR:

Yours of the 12th inst. has been received. Information by the last mail renders it probable that Montreal and Mackinac will not be obtained this campaign, and those places in the hands of the English, the Indians will receive their accustomed supplies of arms, and ammunition and clothing for another year. Whilst the war continues with Great Britain, and the subjects of that power have access to the Indians the latter will also be engaged in war with us. Indeed where they break and make peace, they still entertain an implacable enmity against us, and which manifests itself in open hostilities on the slightest occasions that occur. The Indians feel the greatest regard for the French but cut off from all intercourse with that nation, the British have the next place in their affections, the Americans in war or peace they detest. The reason is obvious. The French while they possessed the Canadas asked for no more land than was necessary for their trading establishments. Their settlements occasioned no deminution of game, no interruption of the Chase, They exchanged goods for peltry many of the Traders married into Indian families and adopted their language, manners and dress. Their trade was beneficial, their policy conciliatory and the extension of the settlements of the British Colonies excited as lively resentments in the minds of the Savages, as have since been manifested in their wars against the Americans. The policy of the French has since the peace of '63 been pursued by Great Britain and friendly connections with that Government and enmity and hostility against the Americans are cultivated and maintained through the agency and influence of the descendants of the ancient Canadian French. They are to be found at every village and camp from our frontier settlements to the Slave Lake and the Mountains and by their employment only the N. W. Company were enabled to extend their trade and obtain the control they now possess and exercise over the Indians. But, in addition to the machinations and influence of the Traders there are other sources of irritation. They dread and are exasperated at the extension and progress of our settlements. There are Indians now living

who in their youth, were accustomed to cross the Allegheny mountains in their war excursions. They now find our settlements at the Mississippi and the Lakes. Ten or twelve years ago they enjoyed extensive hunting grounds on the Ohio and before the present war commenced our settlements had forced them back toward three hundred miles from that river. The Indians are alarmed for their lands, the British for the Canadas and hence the famous projects of Tecumseh, of Uniting all the nations East of the Mississippi and south of the lakes and prohibiting the sale of lands by any Tribe without the consent of the whole confederacy. Fifty or sixty years ago the Peorias, Cahokias, Micheganians, Kaskaskias, and Peankashaws, especially the two last, were numerous and warlike, three of those tribes are now, I believe extinct, the others nearly so and the few that remain are the most worthless vagrants of their color. Whatever the Indians may apprehend fate has in reserve for them they doubt not, but that their misfortunes and calamities will proceed from the Americans. they will never treat with us in good faith whilst the British hold any part of the Continent contiguous to them and if they make peace it will be founded in hypocracy and violated the first favourable opportunity that occurs. The Delewares may be considered an exception. They are however the only one of the small bands that were with the N. W. Army need not be mentioned. I speak generally of the Indians. Tribes that had participated largely of the bounty of the Government, and Chiefs who had been caressed and indulged to the extent of their desires were on the commencement of the war amongst the foremost in raising the Tomahawk against us.

An officer at the head of his army—after giving them repeated defeats, is the most competent negociator to treat with the Indians. The first treaty of Greenville was of longer duration than it otherwise would have been as General Wayne was the agent employed to make it; but even that Treaty would have been violated long before it was had it not been for the influence of the British agents having prepared the Indians for war. They wished the relation between us and England to assume a more decisive character before they commenced hostilities and it was contrary to their views that the battle of Tippecanoe was fought.

If the information derived from the Miamis and communicated to you in my last letter be correct, the motive of the Potawatamies in re-establishing themselves on the Wabash is clear, it is for the purpose of driving the Miamis into the hostile confederacy and if they remain beyond the frontiers, it will in four months be accomplished. And next spring, as supplies can be obtained by the Indians from Chicago as they were formerly at Malden, our situation will be precisely what it was in 1812.

I have the Honor to be very respect.
Sir Your Obt. Servant
B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 20th, 1814

Har. Pa. 327, 328

SIR:

I have this day received a letter from Gov. [William] Clarke. Information recently conveyed to him by the Indians of the Illinois River induces a belief that the object of the assemblage at Tippecanoe is hostile. This together with the information from the Miamis removes all doubt upon the subject. The British are still in possession of Prairie De Chain and it was rumoured that a detachment of Troops were on their march from Montreal by the way of Grand River, to strengthen that Post. Rest assured that if Montreal and Machinac should remain in the hands of the English till next spring, that the frontiers of this and the two neighbouring Territories will receive a more severe scourging than they have yet suffered.

I have the Honor to be respectfully Sir Your Obt. Servant.
B. PARKE

Gov. POSEY

P. S. At the date of the Governor's letter Col. [William] Russell was in pursuit of some Indians in the direction of Boon's Lick on the Missouri and expected to return to St. Lewis before Wednesday next. I hope the Col. when he hears the change that has taken place on the Wabash will return to this place. The Possee at Tippecanoe ought to be surprised and driven off directly. The safety of the frontier of this Territory depends on keepin the hostile Indians beyond the Illinois River.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 23rd. November 1814

Har. Pa. 309

SIR:

Your letters of the 15th and 18th inst were received on Monday evening. I had hoped that you should have furnished me instructions more specific than I have yet received and I beg you to be assured that I feel a just sense for the confidense you are pleased to repose in me but under an authority so general and unlimited with no information of the treaty of Greenville except from vague report or any knowledge of the policy that the President might wish to be pursued towards the Indians, whilst attempting to secure the frontiers from Indian depredation, I may involve the interests and counteract the views of the Gen. Govt. Under these circumstances I shall not encourage the visits or enter into any arrangement with any of the Indians. With such as may come to Ft. Harrison a friendly understanding will be cultivated, some provisions occasionally furnished, and to facilitate their hunting ammunition very sparingly distributed. I will keep an interpreter at that post and should any considerable number come in I will go there myself. There is not much danger to be apprehended from the hostile Indians before the month of February by that time they will be in motion and before Christmas it is to be hoped that the directions of the secretary of war may be received.

I handed Mr. [Touissant] Dubois your letter. He declines accepting the agency offered him. He can neither read nor write, but in the way you proposed he can be useful. I believe his zeal and enterprise were frequently serviceable to Gov. Harrison.

I have the honor to be with respectfully your Hm. Ser.

B. PARKE

P. W. I had determined yesterday to send a copy of our correspondence to the Secretary of War and to seek special instructions from that Depar. I have this morn. abandoned it. If I do no good I will endeavor to do no harm.

JAMES BIGGER TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 23, 1814

Har. Pa. 329

DEAR SIR:

On yesterday Negomin a war chief of the Delaware Tribe came into the settlement with the object of obtaining permission for himself and party of Friendly with the Whites on the frontiers. His party consists of twenty men with their families. I directed the said chief and his party to keep twenty miles without the settlement on sand creek until I could know from your Excellency your wishes respecting the party. I gave the liberty to some of the party to come in and procure salt and some other necessaries in as much as they were suffering. They will be in in the course of four or five days. Negomin himself in ten or twelve. I wish information of your Excellency how to act.

I am with Esteem Yours
Obediently
JAMES BIGGER, *Capt. U. S. R.*

Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 25th [28th] Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 306, 307

SIR:

I am convinced that your time is very precious at the present periods, which makes me the more reluctant to make any encroachments upon it; but as the subject upon which I have been addressing and am now addressing for your consideration, is of considerable importance I think it will be a sufficient apology.

Judge Benj. Parke, whome I vested with such powers as I may possess, for the purpose of acting as agent for Indian affairs at and in the vicinity of Vincennes, has been communicating with me upon the subject all of which communications, I have inclosed. you copies. [see above] and have solicited you to either give me instructions or appoint an agent or define to me, or whomesoever you may think proper, the necessary course to be taken relative to receiving any bands of Indians who profess friendship to the U. States. It is probable they must be fed and clothed in as frugal a manner as possible and

that they must have a moderate supply of ammunition for hunting. And it will be necessary to consider whether they should be encamped inside or outside of the settlements.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt.

TH. POSEY

Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of War*

P. S. I have never been furnished with the proceedings of the treaty held last summer by Gen. Harrison at Greenville, neither do I know any thing relating to the policy of the President or department of War upon the subject of Indian Affairs.

My residence being at this place and the Indians generally coming into Vincennes obliges me to appoint an agent there.

I think Judge Benj. Parke will accept the appointment for Indian affairs at Vincennes and the country about Ft. Harrison, should you think of having one appointed. He having resided in the territory a number of years and pretty conversant in Indian transactions while Genl. Harrison was Governor will make him a proper person for the appointment.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 26th Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 326

SIR:

I have just received further communication from Judge Ben. Parke and Capt. Bigger [see above] of the rangers relative to Indian affairs copies of which I herewith transmit for your further information. This is the third letter to you upon the subject of Indian affairs and not having received any instructions from the department of war, relative thereto, I hope to be informed of the person or persons, or department that is, or may be authorized to attend to the business of Indian affairs in this Territory. Probably the business comes properly within the notice of the commanding officer of this district, or of such regular officers as may command at different posts or stations. Since the duties of the Governors of the Territories have been curtailed and military concerns, or opperations are vested in the regular officers, I do not feel authorized to act, except against any sudden incursions of the enemy. The present situation of the friendly disposed, as

well as the hostile Indians, demands immediate attention and for the present time, and untill the secretary of war gives proper authority or information where the proper authority is vested, I have so far as my authority extends (if I have any) authorized Judge Parke of Vincennes and a Mr. TuSaint Dubois near thereto, who has been an old Indian trader & pretty well acquainted with a great many tribes of the Indians to act in conjunction as agents for Indian affairs in that quarter. I did recommend Mr. Dubois to the department of War as a proper person to be appointed Indian agent, but I am informed he will not accept the appointment.

I am very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

JAMES MONROE, *Sect. of War*

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES November 29th, 1814

Har. Pa. 291-292

SIR:

A few days since several Miamis and Kickapoos came to Fort Harrison. Amongst the rest were Labossierre, LaFranobois and Negro Legs. Labossierre appeared to be suspicious and manifested no disposition to conciliate and it would seem that the object of his visit was to induce Little Eyes and his band to return to the Indian Country. In a private council he stated to them that [William] Conner was the only honest man that he knew amongst the Americans—that, frank and candid, he gave him the news entire—that, he had informed him, the City of Washington had been taken by the British and the President, driven from his house and that orders had been given to the people of Vincennes and the neighbouring settlements, to be ready, on the shortest notice to abandon the Coutry Labossierre added that the Indians need not be solicitous about cultivating the friendship of the Americans if they came within the settlement of the Whites, they would be exposed to ill treatment, to be thrown into prison etc. and that if they would remain back in the country the British would soon restore them to the quiet possession of their land. An Indian who says he was present at the Council, gives infor-

mation of this speech. William Conner Labossierre informant is a Brother of John Conner, formerly Interpreter for the Delawares. What employment he is in on White River I know not, —Whether this talk originated with Labossierre or whether he received it from Conner, as an Emissary of the British, is indifferent.—the manner in which he is propagating it manifests an unfriendly disposition towards the U. States. Labossierre has been orator for and a leading man amongst the Weas for many years past.

I forwarded instructions to [Joseph] Barron agreeably to my letter of the 23 inst but, before they were received, Little Eyes wishing to come down, Barron gave him permission and he is now on his way by water to this place. I will endeavour to dispose of him and his people (about 20 persons) so that they will receive no harm, and be as little expense to the Government as possible. Wishing Barron to be here, I have sent, [Michael] Bruillet, to Fort Harrison a copy of my instructions to him is inclosed. On Saturday night, last, one horse and on Sunday night five horses were taken from the Busseron settlement 25 miles distant from this place—supposed to be stolen by Indians. A party of Rangers, are in pursuit of them. But with Indians at least profesedly friendly, hunting in the neighbourhood of the frontiers, under the sanction as it is said of the Greenville Treaty, and assailed by hostile Indians—the Rangers in pursuit will be as likely to fall in with friends as enemies and a Miami will not be readily distinguished from a Potawatomy or Winebago a friendly Deleware had like to have lost his life a few days since by a party of Public Surveyors on White River the consequence of such an accident must be obvious. The Miami boundary is within five and thirty miles of our settlements between the Wabash and White River.

I have the Honor to be very respectfully Sir

Your Ob. Servt. B. PARKE

Gov. POSEY

P. S. just as I had closed the above, I rec'd your letter of the 26th inst. To advise with M. Dubois is certainly what I shall wish to do. But I repeat that if his agency should be required he can be most beneficially employed in the way I mentioned in my last—and in no other.

B. PARKE TO MICHAEL BROUILLETTE

VINCENNES, Nov. 29th, 1814

Har. Pa. 288, 289

SIR:

You will proceed without delay to Fort Harrison to receive and confer with such Indians as may come to that place. For the present no encouragement will be given to the Indians to come to that place or to any part of the Wabash Settlements, with a view of receiving presents from the Government, or any of its agents—but, such as may come to the Fort, you will receive with kindness and endeavour to detach them from the British and their emissaries in the Indian Country and to conciliate their affections towards the United States.

The object of your being placed at Fort Harrison is to obtain information of what is passing in the Indian Country and for the accomplishment of which you will use your best endeavours. Your extensive acquaintance amongst the Wabash Indians will enable you (if it can be done at all) to collect correct information of their numbers, positions, views, and the talks that may be sent them from the British or the Illinois and Mississippi Indians, and the manner in which those talks may be received—as also the supplies they may receive from the British—the channels through which and the places where, and the Tribes or persons to whom delivered. In furtherance of this, you will be furnished with a few articles of Merchandise which you will distribute as occasion may require.

There being many of our citizens out exploring the country, it will not be altogether safe for the Indians to hunt, below the boundary line. You will therefore advise them not to come below Raccoon Creek for that purpose. Such as come to Fort Harrison ought to bring a flag.

Yours respectfully

B. PARKE

MICHAEL BROUILLET *Interpreter*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. 6th Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 287

SIR:

I have just received further communications from Judge

Benj. Parke of Vincennes [see above] relative to Indian affairs, copies of which I herewith inclose to you, thinking it my duty to afford you every information in my power respecting Indian affairs, until I am informed of the policy of the president, and receive instructions, or a notice to whom instructions are or may be given upon the subject. I have written several letters to you, and to Gen. Armstrong before his resignation and have not received any answer or instructions relative to Indian affairs.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant

TH. POSEY

Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 7th Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 317

SIR:

Information was received last evening from Capt. [Frederick] Sholts at Fort Harrison, from which it appears that a few days ago the principle chief now with the Vermillion Kickapoos came to that fort with strong professions of amity and good will toward the U. States. The Capt. took the chief and his wife to his quarters to lodge, and while they were asleep one of the strangers fired his piece at them through a window and killed a squaw.

The chief reported that in a few days a considerable number of her people might be expected at the Fort all friendly disposed. To receive them, as also to endeavor to patch up the unconscionable outrage of the rangers, Mr. [Touissant] Dubois sen. will set out for the Fort tomorrow. It is necessary that a prompt endeavor should be made to heal the wound occasioned by this outragious murder of the squaw. I would go to the Fort myself but I have been in bad health for some time, and the weather is now extremely inclement and probably Mr. Dubois is more competent than I am to accomplish the object in view.

Your letters of the 28th ult. and the 4th inst. I have received.

I have the honor to be with respect Sir
Your Obt. Servt.

B. PARKE (Copy)

His Excellency Gov. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Dec. 21 1814

Har. Pa. 321-324

SIR:

Mr. [Touissant] Dubois returned from Fort Harrison on Sunday last. The Kickapoos chief had left the Fort two or three days after the murder of his wife—meeting at that place with some men of the same tribe. Mr. Dubois sent for them for him. He came with his family and profiting by the occurence the little Otter a Kickapoo Chief Laposure, Negro Legs and La Frambois of the Weas and Miamis, with about three hundred men women and children, also came in. Their professions were amicable and the Kickapoos accepted the present that I sent to appease his resentment for the loss of his wife. As regards the Indians, that unpleasant affair may be considered as satisfactorily settled.

Mr. Dubois represents the Indians as extremely necessitous. Their arms out of order with little or no amunition and their clothing miserable. They express a wish that some arrangement could be made that would enable them to have access to our traders and above all that they could get their arms repaired. You will judge of the propriety of the course that ought to be pursued. To hunt they must have their arms in order—to procure clothing and ammunition they must have an opportunity of vending their skins and furs. As these people have made a peace with the United States they consider that they have some claim to the privilidge that they ask and it is very certain that if they do not obtain it from us they will seek it else where. They will go to the British. The Emissaries of the latter are vigilant and are now endeavouring to reattach them to the hostile confederacy. The loss of the Tygress and Scorpion and the retreat of General [George] Izard have been communicated to them in a manner, to give them a high Idea of British prowess and to induce a belief that our affairs are in the decline. The hope of the establishment of a post, for their convenience at *Prairie Vache* on the St. Josephs near the southern extremity of Lake Michigan is still encouraged and the assurance repeated that if they would adhere to the British they should be reinstated in all their lands.

From the character of the Indians their jealousy of the

Americans and attachment for the British whilst we are at war with the latter, and their agents and traders have the means of furnishing them supplies, I consider pacific arrangements of the Government with them as mere expedients. Especially if they are not enabled to obtain their wanted supplies either in Donations from the Government or from an intercourse with our Traders. If from the Treaty, we are to consider them friendly, they ought to enjoy a portion at least of the benefits they were accustomed to derive from a state of peace.

If you should think proper to license any person to trade with the Indians, it might be advisable that they should not vend their goods below Fort Harrison. The irritation of the people from recent injuries, and their being some of the most inconsiderate and unprincipled men in the settlements on the frontiers that ever disgraced humanity, it might be unsafe for the Indians for the purpose of Trade to come below the Fort and if it should be thought proper to repair their arms a Gun Smith might be established at the same place.

The Indians appeared to be so urgent upon the subjects of Trade and getting their arms repaired that Mr. Dubois promised them that he would endeavor to obtain an answer to their application in a month or six weeks.

Totally ignorant of the views of the President I have been more particular in stateing these subjects to you. If it should comport with the views of the Government to grant the request of the Indians possibly they might be as conveniently accommodated at Fort Wayne or the Deleware Towns as at Fort Harrison.

Mr. Dubois volunteered to go to Fort Harrison but as he was detained some days longer than I expected he would have been, I think he ought to have an allowance especially as I consider his services meritorious. He was absent ten days. I had to send Mr. [Joseph] Barron to interpret for him with him—he has been accustomed to receive an extra allowance for extra services of this kind. He was also employed with Capt. [Pierre] Andre in the month of November twenty-one days. During Barrons absence, I had to employ a man to act for him here promising to recommend him to you for such wages as you might think proper to allow for Dubois. I would mention three dollars per day and Barron one dollar

and the necessary expenses of each and to the other Mr. Payette fifty cents per day. The several claims are submitted for your consideration.

Your letter of the 11th inst. has been received. A Ranger of Capt. [Frederick] Sholtes company is suspected of having murdered the Kickapoo squaw. He is in close confinement at the Fort—whether he will be tried by a court martial or by our Territorial Court I know not. From a late act of the Legislature it would seem that I have no authority to interfere. But however aggravated his guilt or decisive the proof I entertain no expectation from past experience of his being punished. Since my residence here several outragous murders have been committed on the Indians—No one has been punished. In one very clear case, the Grand Jury refused to find a Bill. These circumstances induced me to endeavor to effect a prompt accommodation according to the Indian mode, with the Kickapoos and it is highly probable that it is all the redress they will ever receive.

I have the honor to be very respectfully
Your Obt. Servant

Gov. POSEY B. PARKE

POSEY TO B. PARKE

JEFFERSONVILLE 25th, Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 318-320

SIR:

Yours of the 21 inst [see above] I received by last mail and shall transmit a copy to the secretary of war. I have not received answers to any of my communications to the department of war upon Indian affairs, and am at a loss to imagine a reason. Should it be the opinion of the President or secretary of war that Governor of the Territory already possess sufficient authority—clothed with the powers of agency relative to the superintendency of Indian affairs yet it would be necessary to receive instructions as relates to the policy of the Gen. Government toward the Indians, particularly those tribes who come in with professions of friendship. I know nothing of the results or conditions of the treaty which took place last summer at Greenville. It shurely will be the best policy and most conducive to the public good under existing circumstances (so large a number of Indians having come in with friendly overtures to take shelter under our government) to

favor their friendly offers, and to aid and assist them. If we neglect or reject them the British emisaries and hostile tribes will be actively engaged in their endeavours to gain them over to join our enemy. From what I can learn, there are at present among those Indians who have come in as friends several Indians trying to effect this purpose.

You say three hundred have lately come into Vincennes and that you have directed they shall be encamped at or near Fort Harrison, where all that have, or may come in to your parts, are ordered to rendezuous., to meet with such supplies as can be procured for them. I know of no arrangements made by the Gen. Government to supply the Indians. There is a law to supply the Indians. There is a law of Congress to license persons to trade with the Indians, within their own limits; and there is a law of the Territory to license persons to trade with them, within the part of the Territory to which the Indian title has been extinguished. I shall grant a license under the Territorial law, to a person to trade with them at Fort Harrison, but wish you to recommend a suitable person. The Indians may expect some presents. They must be of a very partial nature, untill I can hear from the Gen. Government. I hope Government will make provision for the friendly Indians and appoint some particular station where they may receive supplies.

With respect to a compensation to Mr. Dubois and others, who have or may be engaged in Indian affairs, I will endeavor to be informed upon that subject, and will give you information. I am very happy to find that Mr. Dubois has had the address to appease and bring about a reconciliation by a suitable present to the chief whose wife was murdered by the U. S. Ranger. I hope the fellow will meet a punishment justly due him, for perpetrating such a horrid crime.

I have already vested you with such authority as I possess, which from a want of information or instructions from the Gen. Government, I am not able to define, particularly as to the policy to be observed. I am well assured you will do all in your power to promote the interest of the U. States.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
TH. POSEY

Honble. Judge BEN. PARKE Vincennes (Copy)

Posey to Secretary of War

Jeffersonville 27th Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 315, 316

Sir:

I herewith inclose to you sundry documents, which I think essential that you and the President should see. I have written several letters to you which I thought necessary that you should be made acquainted with their contents. The Indian affairs in this Territory are becoming very important and require the attention of the Gen. Government. I am entirely unacquainted with the policy to be observed toward the Indian tribes, who are daily coming in. I know of no provision made to afford supplies in this Territory and should they not meet with supplies and attention from our Government they most assuredly will go to the enemy who are ready to supply them and are making every exertion to gain them over. I have prevailed with Judge [Benjamin] Parke who resides in the quarter where the Indians generally come in, to use his exertions to conciliate their affections, and furnish them occasionally with provisions and clothing—such articles as they are really in great need of and which probably may be obtained from the merchants of Vincennes. The whole of them will be encamped at or near Ft. Harrison with liberty to hunt on the frontiers and trade with such person as I shall license for the purpose under a Territorial law. They are at present in a very distressed situation, as you may observe from Judge Parke's letter. There are about twenty families come into, or near Valony. I have been informed they are encamped on Sandy Creek [see Nov. 23 above], fifteen or twenty miles north of Valony about 70 or 80 miles from this, in Washington county. They request to be allowed to hunt and trade. The inhabitants on the frontiers appear to be well satisfied that they should remain there, thinking it will afford a degree of safety from the depredations of the hostile Indians. I believe I shall license some person to trade with them. Mr. Dubois will give every assistance in his power to Judge Parke.

I am very Respectfully
your obt. Servt.
Th. Posey

Hon. James Monroe, *Sec. of War*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 14th Jan. 1815

Har. Pa. 338-340

SIR:

Your letter of the 22nd Ult. came to hand by last mail, the contents of which shall be attended to. I have in sundry letters addressed to the department of war, been very particular to give information as relates to Indian affairs in this Territory. One of the 16th Sept. last to Genl. Armstrong and to yourself one of the 3rd Nov. the 12th 26th and 28th one of the 6th Dec. and of the 27th [see above]. I should not feel concerned were I certain those letters or any of them reached the department of War, but from no acknowledgement of the receipt of any of them, I am fearfull they have miscarried.

Your letter of the 22nd Ult. [not found] mentions that "It has been intimated to this Dept. that several of the hostile tribes within the neighbourhood of your Territory are desirous of renewing with the United States a state of peace."

The information conveyed in my letters was respecting Indians that had actually come into our settlements with their families with a desire of being received upon friendly terms and treated in a friendly manner in affording [a sheet gone here]

P. S.

I am informed by the Honble. Jonathan Jennings representative from this Territory in the House of Representatives in Congress that he had it from the Department of War, that not more than one Maj. Genl. and two Brigadiers will be commissioned for the Militia of this Territory. In that case I recommend Joseph Bartholomew as Maj. Gen. Ind Militia and James Dill for the Eastern half of the Territory and Walter Wilson for the Western half of the Territory as Brigadiers Ind. Militia.

T. P.

PIERRE ANDRE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 8th Feb. 1815

Har. Pa. 346, 347

DEAR SIR:

I herein give you the information received by Lt. [Hyacinth] Lasselle respecting the Indians. An Indian states to

Lt. Laselle that the Indians have received fifty cags of powder, lead and flints in proportion at the St. Josephs and he was also informed by one of the Kickapoos that in the course of six weeks it was the intention of the Indians to make an attack on Ft. Harrison and would return to the British immediately after the attack. He heard one of the Miami Indians also observe on the parade one day on seeing the men parade, that they should not do it longer than six weeks. He was also informed by the Indian called Parish Constance that Lapoosier had received three invitations from the British since last fall, Lapoosier has also invited Little Eyes with his party to go and join him at his camp.

One of the Kickapoos has told an old Frenchman who he considered as a particular friend that he will give him information when the Indians intend making the attack on the fort. The Indians are somewhat dissatisfied that Government has not given presents except what they purchase with their peltry.

I have two Indians in confinement at the Garrison for misbehaving themselves or in consequence of their having attempted to kill me.

I am with respect
Your Humble Servt.

PIERRE ANDRIE, *Capt. U. S. Rangers* (Copy)

Gov. POSEY, JEFFERSONVILLE

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 15, 1815

Har. Pa. 349-352

SIR:

I returned from Corydon on the night of the 12 inst. During my absence six horses were taken from the other side of the river immediately opposite the village supposed to be stolen by the Indians. A short time since three Potawatomies came to Ft. Harrison one of whom for his indolence and manners was chastised by the Commanding Officer, leaving the fort with the others, he wounded several cattle within view of the Fort and escaped. The other two were taken, but upon the advice of M. [Touissaint] Dubois were afterwards discharged. On the afternoon of Sunday last a small

party of Indians came to Busseron settlement, killed a man, wounded another badly and took two boys prisoners. A man is also missing from the same settlement supposed to be killed or taken. It is more than probable that this mischief was done by the Potawatomies, but as Little Eyes and his party and other bands of the Miamies were in the neighborhood of the frontiers and might be fallen in with by some of our scouts, I directed the interpreter as soon I learned the above to go to Little Eyes and advise him of what had happened and for him and the other Miamis to remove to the neighbourhood of the Delawares on White river. I have often admonished the Miamis of the danger of hunting near the frontier settlements (see my instructions to Brouilette Nov. 29th). As I had no evidence of the Miamis having committeed an act of hostility since the treaty I thought that justice and humanity required this. I fear the precaution may be useless as I am since informed that a considerable party of Citizens rendezvoused and marched yesterday with the avowed purpose of exterminating Little Eyes party and other bands friends or foes, within their reach. The injuries which the Indians have inflicted on the inhabitants of the frontiers are sufficient to exasperate them to a high degree, but that men having some pretensions to civilization and professing to be Christians should under any circumstances manifest such a Diabolical disposition can scarcely be believed. Yet I am told that a preacher of the Gospel is at the head of this party of Madmen.

I herewith enclose you a letter I have received from Lieut. [Hyacinth] Lasselle. I think it better to send you the Original than to attempt any translation. I consider it important not that I believe there is any probability that the English will aid the Indians with Cannon in an attack on Ft. Harrison, or that there are five thousand Indian warriors at St. Joseph, Chicago, and Udiowaky?, but it shows the diligence and zeal of the agent and party and of that power in disseminating amongst the Indians whatever will have the tendency of strengthening their prejudice and increasing their irritation against the U. States. It is highly probable that Little Eyes is correct as regards the Miamis. What motive could the man have in misrepresenting the people of his own nation that Labossieur is a British partisan. I have been convinced for three months

but whatever the feelings and views of the Miamis may be, situated as they are, in respect to our settlements, and the hostile Indians they cannot remain neutral. They cannot muster more than four hundred warriors and are unable to oppose their hostile Neighbors the Potawatomies. Besides the hostile parties that attack the frontiers commonly retreat through their country, to excite suspicions against and to draw our scouts amongst them. They must be removed from the Country, and taken under the immediate protection of the Un. States or they will shortly in all probability be arranged with the hostile Indians against us. With respect to stolen horses. It appears that several that have been taken since the treaty are in the possession of the Miamis and Kickapoos. They allege that they procured them from the Potawatomies. It may be so. I have urged them to bring in all that have been taken since that period, and that their excuse of having purchased them from the Potawatomies was inadmissable.

Agreeably to your instructions I have employed a Gun Smith to work for the friendly Indians. You will see the terms upon which he is engaged and the instructions under which he is to work for the enclosed notes to Brooks & Broulette.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your Obedient Servant.
B. PARKE

His Excellency Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 18th Feby 1815

Har. Pa. 345

SIR:

Your letter of the 7th Dec. 1814 I have received by the last mail. It was addressed to me at Kaskaskia and no doubt has been the rounds of several hundred miles, with a detention at the several post offices. I am sorry it did not come to hand in due time it would have been very satisfactory and is so at the present time as having instruction from the Department of War relative to Indian affairs, tho I have acted pretty much in conformety to the instructions upon my own responsibility, but shall now proceed with confidence.

It is to be apprehended that the British will set the Indians on our frontier settlements early in the ensuing spring. I herewith enclose you a copy of a letter received within a few

days from Capt. Pierre Andre [Feb. 8 above] in command at Fort Harrison.

The friendly Indians are generally encamped in the neighbourhood of Ft. Harrison and a few near Valony and the frontier of Franklin county. I have licensed proper characters to trade with them. The British are using every endeavor to draw them off from us.

Your instructions at any time will be gladly received, and executed as promptly as possible.

I am with great respet.
Your Obt. Servant
TH. POSEY

Hon. JAMES MONROE *Sec. of War*

P. S. I shall take the necessary steps to be prepared for any invasion of the Indians on the frontiers of this Territory.

The friendly Indians have had some partial presents made them, but they are more unhappy at being deprived from getting whiskey than any other circumstance.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 21st Feb. 1815
Har. Pa. 348

SIR:

I herewith enclose to you a copy of a letter just received from Judge B. Parke [Feb. 15 above] merely to show you the indefatigable industry of British agents among the Indians.

Should the Indians make their threatened attack I have no doubt we shall be prepared to receive them. I have ordered a detail of militia to be held in readiness to march at the shortest notice. The Rangers and regulars at Vincennes, Fort Harrison and the frontiers of the Territory are at present under the command of Maj. Zachary Taylor of the U. S. Infantry. He is a very attentive officer and will do his duty.

I should be happy to hear that an expedition was concerted to undertake an enterprise up the Mississippi against the British and Indians that may be embodying to make a stroke upon our frontiers.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
TH. POSEY

Honble. Col. JAMES MONROE, *Secr. of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES May, 10, 1815

Har. Pa. 334

SIR:

The regular soldiers in Garrison at this place were mostly enlisted for the war, and I suppose will shortly be discharged. One Company of Rangers was discharged the beginning of this month. The balance of that Corps that is now in this quarter must be discharged in about six weeks. What then will become of Fort Harrison? As to the Fort at this place it might be abandoned with propriety, but I would respectfully suggest the necessity of Fort Harrison being occupied. Possibly it might be best to remove the Fort to this boundary at Raccoon Creek or the Vermillion River. I have heard that Col. [James] Miller with his Regt. is on his march to one of the Territories. Probably you may see him and he may have authority to arrange in respect to the above. I have just written to Col. [William] Russell who is still at St. Louis, on the Subject.

Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

B. PARKE

His Excelency Gov. POSEY

P. S. If it were possible for you to visit us and remain here a few weeks, I am confident it would be highly beneficial to this part of the Territory.

LAFRAMBOISE TO PARKE

FORT HARRISON May 17, 1815

Har. Pa. 332

MY FATHER:

I am sorry to tell you that the chiefs who were sent with your speech to the Patawatomies and Kickapoos have returned—for this reason—I knew that the British have invited them to their country and that they were gone.

My father—I listen with pleasure to your speech. It would be unnecessary for us to go to the Kickapoos and Potawatomies knowing they could tell us nothing but lies.

My father—You know that the Kickapoos and Potawatomies told you at Vincennes that they had sent and Express to

their nations for you—and that they consented to send the express at Fort Harrison. They told you a lie.

My father—I believe that the British have sent for the Indians to inform them that peace has been made between the U. S. and Great Britain.

My father—the British sent for us (the Weas)—we are determined not to go.

LAFRAMBOISE

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES May 19 1815

Har. Pa. 343

SIR:

I have just received an Express from Fort Harrison by which I am informed that the Kickapoos and Potawatomies are gone to the British. LaFrambois says that the Miamis will not go. I will send you a copy of his speech [see May 17 above] by next mail and which I have not time now to copy as the mail is closing. I am now satisfied that my arrangement with the Indians will end in nothing.

I have the honor to be respectfully sir Your Obt. Servant.

B. PARKE

Gov. POSEY

P. S. Your letter of the 12 inst. is received.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES May 25th 1815

Har. Pa. 359-361

SIR:

I informed you in my letter of the 18th inst. of the arrival of the Owl and two other Indians. The one his son, the other called Popping Dick [see index McGowan]. I put them in a house where I was in hopes they would be safe. Friday night a gun was fired through the door which wounded Dick in the foot. He was sent to the fort and is under the care of the surgeon. The Owl and his son I took to my own house. A trader starting for Fort Harrison on Monday, I got them privately to his boat and was in hopes of being rid of them. The trader finding it as he thought, dangerous to proceed returned next morning. I shall have some difficulty in getting them off

as I have been informed over and over that all the road from this to the frontier are constantly patroled for the purpose of intercepting and destroying these people on their return. This is a sad state of society and such as I hope never again to witness. Believing that some parties of citizens might probably attempt to do some injury to the friendly Indians, I apprized them of it, advised them to remove which they were to do on Monday. Since I was told that a large party of citizens have passed the frontiers determined to put to death every Indian they meet. I do not believe that they will find the Weas.

The Owl informs me that he heard the same reports in the Indian country of which I have lately informed you that the Kickapoos and Potawatomies are not to be relyed on and that Pecan is clearly for and gone to the English.

I inclose you a letter I have just received from the Col. [William] Russell. As you are in full possession of all the information relative to the situation of affairs here you will determine on the measures it is necessary to adopt. [Pierre] Andre's Company was discharged the first of this month but I believe he and his Lieut. [Hyacinth] Lassal would enter again; if necessary could soon get his company together. [Frederick] Sholts I believe intends to leave the Service. He has promised me to write you respecting his Company.

The party mentioned by Labousiur was the one that defeated Mr. Morrison. Twenty-five of them returned by Labosiurs camp with four horses and some other plunder of Morrison's Camp. and Mr. Boyez of this place prisoner thay had taken another prisoner but being badly wounded they Tomhawked him. One of Morrisons party is still not accounted for. Sin-ma-dall [Six Medals] mentioned by Labossiur is a son of the Five Medals who signed the Treaty at Greenville.

I most earnestly repeat my request that you will immediately visit this part of the Territory. I assure you I think it indispensibly necessary and am happy to learn that your health is so completely restored that you could do it without the least personal inconvenience.

Yours respectfully

B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

P. S.

Since writing the above a man has come in who had been

with the party of citizens I have mentioned. He left them (from 60 to 100 in no.) beyond the frontiers on the trail of the retreating enemy Indians and determined to follow them till last night. If in this pursuit friendly Indians be fallen in with they cannot be readily distinguished from Enemy Indians. Of the danger to which they ought to subjected on such occasions I have repeatedly informed them and from it endeavored to convince them of the necessity of active executions on their part to prevent the approach of the hostile Indians. But I believe if they have committed no act of hostility it is very certain that they have never raised hands to oppose the passage through their county of the hostile Indians from the upper country. However they have frequently given information at Fort Harrison of some approach.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES, May 25, 1815 Evening

Har. Pa. 337

SIR:

I do not know that as Governor you have authority to order Militia into the Service of the U. S. and you will determine whether Col. [William] Russells Letter confers any.

As to my opinion, I really think that two companies ought to be immediately raised for the protection of the Wabash settlements. Possibly one, with [Frederick] Sholts Company as a mere defensive measure might answer.

If you should determine to call any men into service please state specially the terms and conditions upon which they are to serve. The period of service—pay—whether found—or to be found by the public in rations—to be mounted or dismounted—and the number officers—non-commissioned officers and privates to a company.

Sholts' Company as I have informed you goes out of service the beginning of July. The Captain wishes me to inform you that although he is desirous of quitting the Service he will if necessary continue for a term longer. He can have a company immediately after his Ranger command expires. I think him a good officer as much so at least, as any you will probably get. He says that his Lieut. [Enoch] Blasdel will continue if desired. He is a clever fellow.

Captain [Pierre] Andre and Lieut [Hyacinth] Lasselle have called upon us and requested me to inform you that they will

enter again with pleasure. I believe you could not get two better men here. If desired they can have a company in two or three days. The other Subaltern [Harvey] Gregg Wd. join them, at a word if notified of it.

John F. Myers and Pierre Laplante have requested me to mention them as desirous of raising a company of volunteers for the defence of the frontiers. The former, formerly belonged to Captain [William] Perry's Rangers and the latter to [Parmemis] Becke[illegible] and Andres. They think that they could raise a company with ease. How well they would officer one I do not know. Captain Sholts thinks it would not do.

After the first next month of this Ranger Corps, Sholts Company only, continues in service there ought to be from fifty to one hundred men in Garrison at Fort Harrison.

Should Militia be called for and it be so arranged it would be much the best that they should be furnished by the publick, Rangers furnishing themselves is an abominable feature in that system and the contractor here says he is fully competent to furnish what will be necessary for two companies.

Yours respectfully

B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 30th May, 1815

Har. Pa. 330

SIR:

I herewith inclose sundry documents recently received from Judge B. Parke who acts as deputy Indian Agent at Vincennes, Fort Harrison etc. You will observe from those documents that our frontier is very much infested by hostile Indians. I am fearful from information received through various channels that the Indians will be extremely troublesome. Scouting parties are not sufficient to keep them under; probably it will be necessary to send a considerable force into the Indian country to bring them to a right understanding. This is a measure to be considered by the department of war. Certain it is, that some speedy and effectual measures should be adopted to give security to our frontier settlers. True it is, that I could and have at sundry times ordred out the Militia to scour along the frontiers, but this mode proved ineffectual.

The time of service of the rangers has generally expired and we have no regular forces, You will please to write me upon the foregoing subjects.

I have the honor to be with great respect.

Your Obedient Servant.

TH. POSEY

Honbl. the Acting Sect. of War,
CITY OF WASHINGTON

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY August 3rd, 1815

Har. Pa. 341-342

SIR:

The rangers having served the time for which they were raised and being discharged and the hostile bands of Indians committing depredations upon our defenceless inhabitants, I ordered several companies of Militia to guard the frontiers. but before they were organized I received a requisition from Col. [William] Russell (who was in command of this district) to have two complete companies of mounted Militia to supply the place of the rangers. I then declined ordering out all the Militia infantry and have agreeably to the requisition raised two volunteer companies of mounted Militia to serve six months except sooner discharged. As soon as they were mustered into service the muster-rolls were sent on to the commandant at St. Louis supposing it to be the proper channel to report through and the commandant (Col. Russell) returned the muster-rolls. It being necessary they should be reported to the department of war through some channels, I have herewith enclosed them accordingly The Mounted volunteers above mentioned cannot furnish themselves with rations and forage. Col. Russell gave orders that the contractor should furnish rations but has made no arrangement for supplying forage. I could wish to have instructions upon that head and it will be necessary that they should be attended in case of sickness by a physician. The commandant at St. Louis would give no instructions relative to forage or medical aid.

I am very respect. your Obt. Ser

TH. POSEY

Acting Sect. of War, CITY OF WASHINGTON

P. S. The Indians heretofore hostile, still discover a very inveterate & hostile disposition. I am of opinion nothing sat-

isfactory will take place with them as to a peaceful disposition until they are humbled.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 1st, 1815

Har. Pa. 353-356

SIR:

On the 19th Ult. I informed you of my intention of visiting the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos. I saw all the Chiefs but one and was much gratified with their orderly conduct and the desire they manifested of attoning for their past errors and misconduct. They now appear to be sensible of the benefits resulting from a state of peace and the interest they have in preserving it.

A chief of the Vermillion Kickapoos treated with the Commissioners, and made peace at Portage Des Sioux, were on their way to the Embarrass and Sangamond, the former a branch of the Wabash, the latter of the Illinois and both in the adjoining Territory. Those on the Embarass will be about one and those on the Sangamond not more than three days Journey from Fort Harrison. He further states that on their arrival on those waters for their Winters hunt a deputation of their Chiefs intended to visit me. There are still too many exasperated, unprincipled men in those settlements to render it safe for the Indians to come to this place. And should the Chiefs of that Tribe really wish to see me, I will meet them at the Fort. They however properly belong to Gov. [Ninian] Edward's agency and I am ignorant of the arrangements that have been made at Portage des Sioux.

The same chief informed me that he had understood that the Shawneese and other adherents of the Prophet intended to re-establish themselves at Tippecanoe. Should those miscreants return to that place it will be for the purpose of exciting mischief and dissentions amongst the Wabash Indians.

In the spring of 1812 a miserable remnant of the Pyankashaws residing in the neighbourhood of this place were for their safety advised to remove back into the Indian Country. They settled on the neighbourhood of the Kickapoos. Russels expedition drove them from thence. They then went to the Missouri where they were taken prisoners by a detachment of Rangers and Militia. They have since been under the protection of and I believe subsisted by the U. State in the Mis-

souri Ty. They now earnestly solicit to return to their old hunting grounds on the Embarrass and little Wabash and have sent me a talk to obtain permission for that purpose. They have I believe a considerable Tract of Country between the lands they sold the United States and the lands of the Kickapoos but all in the Illinois Territory. I shall therefore not give the permission solicited unless instructed so to do. Were they permitted to return all public business might be easily dispatched with them, as also the Prairie Kickapoos at Ft. Harrison, as it now is with the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos.

Maj. [Willoughby] Morgan occupying Fort Harrison with two companies it is no longer convenient for the interpreter and Gunsmith to remain in it. I have purchased near the Fort a small Cabin, part finished completing that and building another adjoining it for a shop accommodation will be afforded them. The house will also serve as a place of rendezvous for the Indians who resort to that place. On Saturday last Maj. Morgan discharged the Militia Rangers raised under the requisition of Col. Russell a few months since.

Whilst the Rangers were in Service, I had to hire an express but in a single case, the Officers of that Corps kindly furnished me men for that service. I had occasion frequently for them. Scarcely a week elapsed that I did not receive a communication from the Indians that required attention as it would not be prudent for [Michel] Broulette to send an Indian messenger to me, it will scarcely be possible for him to get an express at the Fort. And to depend on transient persons would not comprt with the Public Interest. I could wish to engage a man for three five or six months upon the terms on which the rangers were enlisted. Until January he ought to go to the Fort and return weekly during the frosts and high waters of the winter and spring once in two weeks. I believe it would be as cheap, cheaper to the Government than hireing men as occasion may require and would insure a safe and expeditious mode of transmiting inteligence to and from the Indian Country.

The proposition is respectfully submitted for your determination.

I am respectfully Sir your
Obe. Servant.

B. PARKE

His Excellency Gov. POSEY

47—2266

Posey to Secretary of War

Jeffersonville Ind. Ter. 12 Nov. 1815

Har. Pa. 357

Sir:

Thinking it necessary that the department of war should be made acquainted with the present temper and disposition of the Indians within my district, I herewith enclose to you a copy of a letter from Judge B. Park[e] [Nov. 1 above], who I have been under the necessity of employing as an assistant in Indian affairs owing to the dispersed situation of the Indians at different stations upon our frontiers. In addition to Judge Parke's letter, I inform you that all the tribes at other stations as well as Ft. Harrison are very amiably disposed. All the friendly Indians have been greatly distressed for the want of provision and to relieve their distresses only in a moderate degree, I have given them partial supplies, which I presume will meet the approbation of Government. I have licensed Traders to furnish the Indians at the different stations and I am in hopes they will be enabled to furnish themselves considerably if not altogether by hunting. In all the accounts which I have sanctioned and sent on to the department of War, I have endeavored to economise as much as possible and have endeavored to explain the necessity of furnishing the several articles charged by accompanying documents where they were not sufficiently explained in the account.

I am with great respect
Your Humble Servt.

Th. Posey

Honble. William H. Crawford
City of Washington

Posey to General Assembly

Jeffersonville Dec 4 1815

Mss. in Sec. of State's Office

Regular Message

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives:

The period for the meeting of the legislature of the territory has once more arrived, and it is with the most heartfelt

satisfaction that I now congratulate you, that since your last meeting, a bloody war has been terminated by an honorable peace, the blessings of which have been diffused and felt throughout our beloved country. We cannot be too grateful to that providence, in whose hands are the destinies of nations, that he has blessed our efforts in a just and arduous struggle, with a powerful and ambitious enemy, and finally crowned them with the most glorious success. This event has furnished a new era in our history, from which the most flattering presages may be drawn; it has taught us confidence in ourselves, and demonstrated the efficiency of a free government in war, as well as in peace. These political blessings which are of a nature so interesting and important, were not obtained but at the expense of blood and treasure and individual privation; these however are the natural concomitants of war, and should be cheerfully submitted to, in order to insure great national objects. In no section of the union is there more cause for rejoicing at the restoration of peace than in this territory. A cruel and bloodthirsty enemy, who border on our frontier, and whose mode of warfare is the indiscriminate slaughter of the infants, the aged, and the helpless part of the community, have agreed to bury the tomahawk, and once more live with us in the bonds of friendship. From this event has flowed and is still flowing the most lasting benefits to our country; an emigration which is rapidly populating our fertile lands, and which in a little time will enable us to be admitted into the political family of the union as an independent state.

Permit me to recommend to the legislature the propriety as well as justice of imposing as moderate taxes on the emigrants to the territory as may be compatible with the public interest. Most of them have removed from a great distance, at a considerable expense. They have to encounter many difficulties in opening their farms for cultivation, before they can derive a support, much more a profit from them; and consequently their ability will be excused from contributing largely for a short time to the public exigencies. These circumstances are not unknown to you gentlemen, and I make no doubt when you take up the subject of taxation you will give them that consideration which their importance merits.

The present seems to be a favorable time to turn your attention to the promotion of education and the improvement of the

state of roads and highways. Both of these subjects have been already acted on. By reviving them a knowledge of their practical operation, may demonstrate the necessity of making alterations and improvements that will be extensively useful.

A revision of the territorial laws is highly necessary and should be taken up as early in the session as possible. There have not been for some time any of the acts of 1808 or 1810 to distribute to justices of the peace and others who were entitled to them; in fact from their detached and deranged situation, the laws have become complicated and difficult to be searched out and properly understood.

Every dictate of prudence recommends an amendment to the militia system, so as to render it free from any unnecessary delay in its operation, and to secure by more certain and adequate punishments, prompt obedience to such requisitions as emergencies may from time to time require.

I cannot close this communication, without expressing my confidence in a wise and honorable result to your deliberations, and assurances of the faithful zeal with which my coöperating duties will be discharged; invoking at the same time the blessings of Heaven on our beloved country.

TH. POSEY

HARRISON TO CONGRESS

CINCINNATI December 20, 1815

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 650

In a letter which I had the honor to receive from Mr. Fisk, who was the chairman of a committee appointed, in the spring of 1814, to inquire into the complaints of improper interferences with the contractors by the commanding generals, and which letter was dated August 3d, 1814, he says, that he "had formed an unfavorable opinion of me, from some statements which had been made to the committee, supported by documents, chiefly my own letters, substantiating the following facts, viz: that, in a letter addressed by me to the contractor Mr. [B. G.] Orr, about the 24th of June, 1813, I informed him that I had provisions enought on hand for fourteen thousand men for one year, that about the 24th of August of the same year, I made a large requisition upon him for supplies, which, in consequence of the former letter, he was unable to furnish,

and that I had also caused large purchases to be made by the commissaries of the army after the said 24th of June, and that, notwithstanding all this, the army wanted provisions at Malden, and on the expedition to the Moravian towns." Never was there a more artful combination of truth and falsehood than this statement contains. The army did not want provisions at Malden; it remained at that place but one night. The troops had drawn provisions for that and the following day, and there were at least eighty thousand rations on board the vessels, at the wharfs, at the distance of only one hundred yards from the encampment. I should indeed but illy have deserved the situation which I occupied if I had invaded an enemy's country without a single day's provisions for my troops. Could I, for a moment, have preserved the confidence of a single man in the army under such circumstances? What would have been the feelings of the volunteers, and their venerable and patriotic leader? Would not the latter have denounced me immediately to the Government as entirely incompetent to the command? And yet I do know that, notwithstanding the army did want provisions when operating on the Thames, so entirely evident was this want beyond exertions of mine to prevent, that Governor Shelby, who was intimately acquainted with all my plans, and with the whole course of my conduct has continued to speak of me, and to write of me, in a manner far (I must acknowledge) beyond either my merits or pretensions. His letters to the President will prove this. I shall advance nothing in this statement without adducing evidence in support of it, although the statement which I shall make will be so consistent that I trust it would, of itself, have carried conviction to the minds of the committee. I ask them, therefore, to refer to my official account of the operations at Detroit, and upon the Thames, in which it is stated that the vessels which had been sent back from Malden for provisions had been driven to the lower end of the lake, by a storm, and that they had not arrived at that time, nor, indeed, did they arrive until after I had sailed for Buffalo. Upon what, then, could the army, the prisoners, the Indians, with whom I was treating, and the inhabitants of Detroit, a part of whom I was obliged to supply, subsist from the 27th of September to the 12th or 15th of October, but upon the provisions which were taken over with the troops? I

acknowledge that they were not well supplied, but the issues could not have been less than seven thousand rations per diem. From the following statement it will appear that the contractors, and not me, were to blame for the deficiency of provisions, and that if I had relied entirely upon them the army would have starved. I cannot find in any of my letters to the contractors, that I ever said I had provisions for fourteen thousand men for one year. In the letter of the 20th of June, the paragraph in relation to this subject stands thus: "there is, I imagine, full as much provisions on hand, the property of the United States, as will be wanted for the campaign, some fresh beef excepted."

In the letter of the 22d of June, I state, that "there will be quite provisions enough for all the troops that are to be employed at least until the 1st of December." The difference between the statement is, however, not at all material to the argument, since I broadly acknowledge that I not only directed the contractor to procure no provisions for the campaign, but complained to the Secretary of War that he had made considerable purchases at Cleveland. By referring to a map of the State of Ohio, the movements of the northwestern army on the three lines of operation leading from the first to the second military base may be traced as follows, viz: the right line ascending the Scioto river from Delaware and descending Sandusky river to Upper and then to Lower Sandusky. The left taking the direction of that branch of the Miami of the Ohio which interlocks with the Miami of the lake, crossed the Portage between them, and descended the latter river to Fort Meigs. I shall advance nothing in this statement but what is supported by an original document sent with it, or which will be confiremed by the persons to whom I shall refer, and who are within reach of the committee. For the quantity of provisions on hand at the date of my letter to Mr. Orr, 24th June, see original returns of the commissaries, marked No. 1. I have no return by me of the quantity of provisions on hand at Fort Meigs in June, 1813, but the deposition of Captain [William] Oliver, the commissary, accompanying this, will furnish it. My estimate is eight hundred barrels of flour and a much larger quantity of meat. If this estimate is correct, we have on the left and centre lines, and at Fort Meigs, which terminated them, flour equal to nine hundred and forty thou-

sand rations, and half that number of rations of salted meat. The above provisions were purchased under a particular order from the Secretary of War. These facts can be ascertained by reference to the War Office and Colonel [James] Morrison, and the honorable Mr. Creighton. Admitting that of this quantity there had been consumed, on the 24th of June, 1813, four hundred thousand rations, which is a large allowance, there will remain for this line, one million five hundred thousand of all the component parts of the rations, meat excepted, for a considerable quantity of the meat procured for this line had been driven to Fort Meigs in the preceding winter, and there salted.

From these facts it will be admitted that, on the 22d June, 1813, I was authorized to say we had provisions enough on hand for the campaign. But by what sad reverses were these bright prospects so blasted that it became necessary to purchase more provisions, and in August to call upon the contractors for a large supply? From the affidavit of Mr. Pi:tt, and from the personal evidence which he will give to the committee, it will be seen that it is not true that provisions were purchased by the commissaries of the army after the month of June, and before the month of September, excepting some beef cattle, to no great amount, to make the other component parts of the rations on hand complete rations. The call upon the contractor was rendered necessary from the following circumstances: The provisions on the left line were brought from the Miami country, and deposited at St. Mary's on the river of that name, and at Amanda, on the Auglaize, (called on the map Tawa town) and boats were prepared at each of those places to take them for fort Meigs. The greater part of the boats were upon the arrival of General [Green] Clay's brigade of Kentucky militia in the latter end of April, and by that officer very properly taken to convey his troops to the relief of fort Meigs, then besieged by the enemy. Part of the flour was, however, taken down as far as Fort Winchester, and there left, that the troops might be unincumbered with it in their approach to the enemy. After the siege of fort Meigs was raised, orders were given to provide other boats at St. Mary's and Amanda, (those which had descended could not be taken back) and when I wrote to the contractors, on the 22d of June, I had still strong hopes that, by the usual re-

currence of a fresh at that season, the provisions might be brought down. In this hope I was, however, disappointed. Mr. Piatt knows better than I do how much of it reached fort Meigs. My own belief is that a very few barrels of that which was deposited at Fort Winchester arrived, and that in a damaged state. Very early in the spring a large deposite of flour had been made at fort Meigs; to that place also, large droves of hogs and beeves were driven from Urbana and Franklinton. The preservation of this provision engaged my early and particular attention. The flour was put under cover before the sick were sheltered in any other way than by tents; barrels were ordered to be prepared for the pork and beef; but, as it was necessary to salt it before these could be made ready, the meat was put in large vats which were deemed safe, as ship carpenters were employed to make and calk them. Notwithstanding all my personal care and attention, however, a great part of the flour as well as the meat spoiled. During the siege of fort Meigs the covering of the flour was destroyed by the enemy's shot, and a great number of the barrels shattered, and the whole exposed to the continued rains which fell for several weeks. Apprised of this circumstance, I directed that it should be overhauled, sifted and repacked, and as much as possible baked into biscuits. This business was in full operation when the enemy made their second appearance, and caused it to be suspended. Upon the final report of the state of the provisions at fort Meigs in August, I found that a considerable quantity of the flour had been destroyed. A great deal of the salted meat was also spoiled, supposed to be occasioned by the shot from the enemy's batteries causing the reservoirs to leak. The garrison, too, had been obliged to use the salt meat contrary to my intention, as the communication was intercepted, and the fresh beef could not be taken to them. The supplies upon the right wing had also suffered very materially. The flour was principally purchased in the neighborhood of Chilicothe, from whence it was taken in wagons to Franklinton, Delaware; from those places to Norton; from Norton to Upper Sandusky, and from that to Lower Sandusky. From these repeated changes of the carriages, from the frequent loading and unloading, and from the excessive bad roads, the barrels were much broken, and the militia officers, who commanded at the

several depots, were not as attentive as they ought to have been in the construction of sheds to keep them from the weather. From these causes the greater part of the flour was much injured, although it was all examined, and the sound part separated from that which was damaged and repacked; the loss was very considerable. The consumption upon this wing was also unexpectedly increased to an enormous amount from the number of the Ohio militia which turned out to repel the second invasion of the enemy, and from the unnecessary retention of two thousand of them at Upper Sandusky, after the enemy had retired. On the 18th of August I had ascertained that there would be a deficiency of salted provision in the public depots, and as I knew that the contractors had a quantity of that article at Cleveland, which they never had been required to purchase, I addressed a letter to their agent, requiring of them two hundred thousand rations of salt meat for the consumption of the troops when in Canada. I did not at that time suppose that the flour would be wanted; but as it would have been unjust to have obliged the contractors to furnish the salted meat, which was then scarce, and upon which they would probably lose, I gave them the option of furnishing the other parts of the ration or not, as they pleased. See the original draughts of my letter, (No. 2) and Mr. Greely's answer, (No. 3) enclosing the return of provisions on hand at Cleveland, by which it will appear that they had at that time upwards of three-fourths of the whole quantity demanded. It is true that Mr. Orr (see his letter No. 4) contradicts the statement of his partner, Mr. Greely; but the reason of his doing so was soon explained. Upon his arrival at headquarters, about the 7th of September, he stated to me that the Secretary of War would not pay his draughts unless they were sanctioned by me upon an estimate of the cost of provision which I might require of him. I agreed to authorize his drawing, upon his submitting an estimate. His letter and estimate, (No. 5) will show that he wished the Government to advance the whole cost of the three hundred thousand rations which had been required of him, although he had on hand the greater part of the amount purchased with funds that had been placed in his hands when he took the contract. I refused to sanction his drawing for more than a reasonable advance upon the provisions which were then to be purchased. The

whole affair was explained to the Secretary of War in a letter of the 8th of September. This refusal of mine to suffer Orr to draw for sixty thousand dollars to purchase one hundred and thirty-five thousand rations, (which was the quantity wanted to make up the three hundred thousand which were required,) gave the first shock to the good understanding which had subsisted between us, and my taking him severely to task, when the army was crossing the lake, for not providing vessels to transport his provisions, entirely destroyed it.

From the foregoing statement it will, I trust, be acknowledged that, In June 1813, I was authorized to say that there was sufficiency of provisions in the public stores for the contemplated campaign, and that there was nothing unjust towards the contractors, or injurious to the public interests, in the demand of three hundred thousand rations in the latter end of August, since I knew that the greater part was on hand. I acknowledge that, at the time I gave the order, I thought it probable that all the salted meat required could not be procured, and certainly I should not have blamed the contractors for not performing impossibilities. The troops did not suffer because this provision was not purchased, but they were stinted in their supplies at Detroit, because the contractors did not (as they might have done) procure the means of transporting their provisions across the lake. The demand for the three hundred thousand rations was made to render "security more sure"; a maxim that should be constantly in the mind of every general when providing for the subsistence of his army in a wilderness, or in an exhausted country. How many in other respects well-planned enterprises have failed from neglecting it? The great King of Prussia, who, above all other generals, was famous for ascertaining the subsistence of his army, failed in an attempt upon Olmutz, in the seven year's war, because for once he trusted to a single resource. Had he succeeded in this attempt, he might, in a few weeks after, have dictated the terms of peace to the Empress Queen in her capital. But, without recurring to remote examples, our own annals furnish a fatal instance of the neglect of this maxim. General Wilkinson says that he was unable to take Montreal in the fall of 1813, because he was not joined by the corps under General [Wade] Hampton; and the latter asserts that he could not form the desired junction for want of provisions

I have never heard that the retention of the provisions, purchased by the agents of the United States in the hands of their commissaries after the commencement of Mr. Orr's contract, formed a part of his complaints against me. If such should be the case, however, Colonel Morrison will give the committee the most satisfactory information upon the subject. It was in pursuance of his advice that I prescribed the terms upon which the provisions should be delivered, and which were refused by Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr has asserted that he cleared one hundred thousand dollars by the contract, and that, but for me, he would have made three hundred thousand. (See the depositions of Captain Reed, late assistant deputy quarter-master general and three other gentlemen, marked No. 6) I know of no act of mine that could have operated so injuriously to the interests of the contractors, unless in the two instances in which their entire failure to supply the troops was corrected by purchases made by the officers of the United States. Upon my return into the district, in January, 1814, Captain Oliver, the commissary, waited on me to inform me that he was then employed, under an order from Brigadier General Cass, in purchasing provisions for the troops at Detroit, who were almost in a starving situation in consequence on the neglect of the contractors to comply with General Cass's requisitions. I approved of the order which had been given to General Cass, and his successor, in the command of Detroit Colonel Butler, and directed Captain Oliver to continue his exertions to execute them. (See the deposition of Captain Oliver, No. 7.) I had scarcely disposed of this affair when I was alarmed by the intelligence received from Major General Gano, of the Ohio militia, to whom was entrusted the defence of Lower Sandusky and Put-in-bay, at the latter of which lay the prize ships taken from the enemy, that the troops at those places were supplied with provisions from the contractors had been unavailing. (See the deposition of General Gano No. 8) The matter was so urgent that no time was to be lost. Captain Oliver was, therefore, instructed to make a contract for the delivery of forty thousand rations, at Lower Sandusky, with the utmost possible despatch, to make the best bargain he could for the interests of the contractors, but to give a price which would insure the delivery of the provisions. What less

could have been done in the two cases here mentioned? Should I have countermanded the orders given by General Cass and Colonel Butler, by the execution of which alone the important posts at Detroit and Malden could be preserved, or should I have permitted the enemy to retake the ships in harbor, at Put-in-bay, which would have enabled them again to contend for the superiority on the lakes, for fear that I should deprive Mr. Orr of the opportunity of making three hundred thousand dollars instead of one hundred thousand?

In order to gain credit to his complaints of persecution from me, it was conceived to be necessary by Mr. Orr and his friends to assign some motive for it, and they have chosen to account for it by supposing partiality, on my part, towards Mr. John H. Piatt, the Deputy Commissary General. As this officer was allowed a certain per centum upon his expenditures, his emolument, consequently, increased by every order to purchase provisions. The contractors were made to fail, in order that business might be thrown in Piatt's hands; and I believe that it has been more than insinuated that we divided the spoil. By referring to Mr. Piatt's deposition, No. 9, it will be seen, and the fact can be verified by his accounts which have been passed at the War Office, that after the commencement of Orr's contract, Piatt never received an order from me to purchase any provisions, but in a single instance, and that was some beef cattle for the purpose of making the flour and other component parts of the rations in the hands of the United States commissaries complete rations. The order for the purchases to remedy the failure of the contractors at Detroit and Malden, in the winter of 1813-1814, was given when I was out of the district, first by General Cass, and afterwards by Colonel Butler, that for the supply of Sandusky and the Bass islands' was committed to Captain Oliver. To give color to my supposed subserviency to the interests of Mr. Piatt, it has, I understand, been asserted that I drew him from obscurity to place him in the lucrative office which he filled. This story is just as false as the inference that is drawn from it. I was a perfect stranger to Mr. Piatt when I found him upon the frontiers of this State acting as purchasing commissary under an appointment from General Hull. I continued him in opposition to the claims of a friend of eighteen years standing, because I was informed that he had given great satisfaction

to Hull's army by his zeal and industry. (See certificates of Generals Taylor, Findlay, and Colonel Jesup marked No. 10) With Mr. Piatt I never had any connexion, but in the relation of commanding general and commissary, in my life. If examined upon oath by the committee he will testify that all the pecuniary transactions which ever passed between us were me renting a house from him in Cincinnati for my family, for which he charged me more than the preceding tenant had paid; his purchasing two yoke of oxen from my farm after I had left the army, and a book account of fifty dollars, principally for articles furnished my family in my absence. In a case of this kind, where even the suspicion of improper conduct would be nearly as fatal to my character as a conviction of guilt, all delicacy should be laid aside and the affair examined to the bottom. It is, therefore, my earnest wish that Colonel Morison, Mr. Piatt, and such other officers as served under me, who are within reach of the committee, may be required to testify not only as to the facts, but to declare their opinion and the general impressions existing in the army. It would be very difficult to exhibit positive proof of the corruption of a commanding general, but there are a thousand circumstances which might come to the knowledge of those about him which would be quite as convincing as the most authentic document. I do not indeed think it would be wrong to make all public officers account for any sudden increase of wealth. To show that this has not been my case, I have procured the deposition of General Findlay and Mr. Burnett, to show that I left the army poorer than when I entered it, and that I have since been obliged to have recourse to loans to put my farm in a situation to support my family. The high character of these gentlemen will be vouched for by all the Ohio delegation.

I have no claim to push the investigation I have solicited further than is necessary to my own defence, but if with a view to a better understanding of the operations which may be necessary in a future war, the House of Representatives should determine to give greater scope to the inquiry, the result will, I am sure, prove the correctness of the places which were adopted for the support of the Northwestern army, and that the actual cost of the supplies will bear a favorable comparison with that of any other army which preceded it in the same tract, or with those which, in the late war, were em-

ployed in other sections of the country. I do not consider myself, however, responsible for the amount of money which may have been expended by the army under my command, excepting as to its faithful application, so far as that depended on me. I am, indeed, ignorant of the amount. All that my duty required me to know, was that it was as little as possible, to give security to the measures which I was directed to pursue. My opinion may differ from many, with regard to the quantum of supplies necessary to produce that security, and I may perhaps be blamed for having ordered them to be provided on a scale unnecessarily large. It cannot, however, be by those who are acquainted with the country which was the scene of our operations, or who will recollect that the army under General St. Clair was in a starving condition when it was defeated, and that of General Wayne, after a preparation of two and a half years, was scarcely able, upon very reduced allowance, to reach the point of its destination.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
Late Major General in the United States Army

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO POSEY

CORYDON Dec. 26 1815
Har. Pa. 447-450

LEGISLATURE OF INDIAN.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Resolution of the House

Resolved unanimously by the House of Representatives of Indiana, That Ezra Ferris and Joseph Holman be, and they are bereby appointed a committee to wait upon his Excellency the Governor of this Territory with the following Address, as expressive of the sentiments of this House.

To his Excellency THOMAS POSEY, *Governor of the Indiana Territory*

SIR:

The House of Representatives, owing to your absence at the opening of the present session of the Legislature, were prevented from making a formal answer to your written communication: They now take the opportunity of informing your Excellency, that they highly approbate the measures you

were pleased to recommend; but owing to the prospects of going into a State Government shortly, they have thought proper to postpone the consideration of some of the subjects recommended, until the next session of the Legislature; and wishing to express the sentiments of esteem and respect which they feel towards your Excellency, before they are dissolved as a legislative body, the last, perhaps, that will act as such during our Territorial existence, they cannot refrain from declaring their perfect approabation of your offical conduct as Governor of this Territory. During your administration, Sir, many then existing evils have been remedied; and we particularly admire the calm, dispassionate, impartial conduct of your administration, which has produced the salutary effect of quieting the violence of party spirit, harmonizing the interests as well as feelings of the different parts of the Territory; and under your auspices, we have become as one people. We cordially wish renovated health, domestic happiness, and public applause, which you so justly merit, may accompany your future days, and be the reward of a life devoted to your country's service.

DENNIS PENNINGTON
Speaker of the House of Representatives

GOVERNOR'S REPLY

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY:

The address of your House, delivered by your committee, Messrs. Ferris and Holman, I receive with unspeakable pleasure, and deem it to have a place among the most consoling event of my life Yes, gentlemen, the approbation of so respectable a body, relative to my administration, will make an impression upon my mind that can only be eradicated by a dissolution of my existence in this life. But while life remains, and I continue in the reputable station which I hold, you shall always find me devoted to render to the citizens of our Territory all the faithful services which are committed to my charge, and made my duty to administer.

The probability is, that we shall shortly take a stand as a state, and add one more brilliant star to the Union of our beloved country; and let my station be as it may, whether public or private it shall be devoted to do all the good I can to serve

and promote the happiness and welfare of my fellow-citizens.

You will please to receive my thanks for the impressive manner in which you appreciate my services, and the interest you take for my personal welfare. Please to accept my best wishes that each individual may enjoy health and prosperity through your public and private life; that upon your retirement, you may have a happy meeting with your families; and that you may be under the providential care of the Supreme Governor of the Universe.

TH. POSEY

The Honorable the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives
26th Dec. 1815

HARRISON TO JOHN MCLEAN

CINCINNATI December 29, 1815

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 658

DEAR SIR:

From Mr. [Jacob] Burnet and other very respectable characters who have lately returned from the Eastern States, I have learned that the industry and motives of a few enemies have produced an impression so general and unfavorable to my reputation, that it becomes a duty to my family, my character, and even my country, to endeavor to remove it. There was no means of accomplishing this which appeared so proper as that of an investigation by the House of Representatives. I have accordingly solicited one by a letter addressed to their Speaker, which is herewith enclosed: [see Dec. 20 above] it is also accompanied by a statement which I have prepared, with a number of documents to support it. The letter having been presented, you will oblige either to put the statement and documents also in possession of the House or deliver them to the Committee that may be appointed, as you may judge proper. I cannot believe that there will be any hesitation to grant my request: but if there should, I hope you will be prepared to support my claims. Mr. Bassett, who is my near relation, Mr. Pleasants, and Mr. Nelson of Virginia, will all of them readily yield you their aid, as would Mr. Clay himself if he should have an opportunity of speaking. I will thank you to make known my wishes to these gentlemen. I think it is probable that you may be one of the committee: if you are, I must repeat in this private letter what I have said in

that to the Speaker, that I wished the investigation to take the greates possible scope, and that no sense of delicacy towards me should prevent the asking the officers who may be summoned before the committee any questions which will probe the subject of the investigation to the bottom; and if I have a friend on the committee, he will take that course without the least apprehension that any thing will come to light which would cause him to blush for me. Others have served the country more successfully, but none with more zeal and fidelity than I have done. I claim no reward, I would be contented with security; but I cannot rest under unmerited obloquy. I see that my old opponent (Proctor) has been severly reprimanded by the Prince Regent. My fate has been more hard than his. He had (I presume) a fair trial, I have been condemned unheard. His crime was the loss of an army and a province; mine of having incurred (in what way I know not) the hatred of a minister, and forcing a contractor to do his duty.

I have selected you as the medium of giving the enclosed papers their destination as well from the high opinion I entertain of your character, as your being the Representative of my district. The trouble you may give yourself on this occasion will be gratefully remembered by dear sir, your friend and humble servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN MCLEAN, Esq.

BURNET AND FINDLAY TO CONGRESS

CINCINNATI Jan 20, 1816

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 658

HAMILTON COUNTY, SS:

Before me the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the county of Hamilton, came personally James Findlay and Jacob Burnet, who, on oath, depose and say, they are intimately acquainted with Major General William Henry Harrison, and that during the time he commanded the northwestern army, they had some agency in the management of his private pecuniary concerns, and know that he borrowed money to defray the ordinary expenses of his family. They further state, that since his resignation, he has increased the loans that were made during the war, for the purpose of im-

proving and stocking his farm at North Bend, which loans he has not refunded to the present day. And these deponents state further that the said General William H. Harrison is jointly interested with them in fifteen thousand dollars of the stock of the Miami Exporting Company, which is all the stock owned by him in that bank, which amount of stock was purchased with money received from the sale of land situated in the Miami, purchased and owned jointly by him and these deponents prior to the commencement of the late war. These deponents know that the General is, and for many years past has been, possessed of a large and very valuable real estate; but which has not been sufficiently productive to defray his ordinary expenses, in consequence of which he has been under the necessity of having recourse to loans, as above stated. These deponents know, that he proposed, since he left the service, to sell his bank stock for the purpose of raising money to enlarge the improvements on his farm, which was prevented by an offer from the bank to extend his accommodations. These deponents being intimately acquainted with the property business and circumstances of General Harrison, are convinced, that he did not add to the value of his estate during the war, and that he left the army more embarrassed than he was when he entered it. The conviction produced on our minds, by a long, intimate, and confidential acquaintance with the General, requires us to declare, on this occasion, that, in point of honor and integrity, he is not excelled by any person in the circle of our acquaintance, and that we believe he would rather sacrifice his fortune than add to it by an act dishonest or dishonorable.

JAMES FINDLAY
JACOB BURNET

Sworn and subscribed to, this twentieth day of January, 1816, by JAMES FINDLAY, one of the Deponents before me.

ANDREW MARK, J. P.

State of Ohio, Ross County, Mayor's office, Chilicothe, SS:

I, Levin Belt, Mayor of the town of Chilicothe aforesaid, do hereby certify, that the foregoing deposition was sworn to and subscribed before me, by JACOB BURNET, one of the members from Hamilton County, of our present Legislature, now in session in this place.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and

affixed the seal of my office this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

LEVIN BELT, *Mayor*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 25th Jany. 1816

Har. Pa. 453, 454

DR. SIR:

The third of March ensuing brings my appointment as Governor of this Territory to a close, probably the President may be apprized of this. I herewith enclose to you an address of the House of Representatives to me [see Dec. 26 above]. If consistant with the views of the President, I shall readily accept of a reappointment.

Some of our citizens are very restless to go into a State Government. I wish the people were well prepared for the measure, but I may say with propriety that at least two thirds, or three fourths are not able to contribute but very little, if anything to the support of a state; and there is also a very great scarcity of talents or men of such information as are necessary to fill the respective stations, and offices of government. No doubt you have seen the memorial of the two Houses of the Legislature to Congress for the purpose of going into a state government. If Congress should be so benevolent as to grant all applied for, there would be no difficulty except the want of men of good information.

It is calculated that we shall go into a State government in twelve or eighteen months. I think three years would be short enough to place the Territory in a situation for the change. But so anxious are many, that no doubt they will be ready to accept of any terms. We have numbers sufficient, and that is all we can boast of.

In the *interem*, should a new territory be laid off, or should anything occur in creating an office; or should any vacancy take place the office of which I might be thought adequate to perform the duties of I shall be very thankfull for an appointment. Were I not needy, and in some degree thinking myself entitled to a claim of some attention (however small) from my country I would not ask the favor.

I am with much respect and esteem

Your obt. servt.

TH. POSEY

Honble. Col. JAMES MUNROE *Secretary of State*

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Fe 6th, 181[illegible]

Har. Pa. 372-374

SIR:

For some time reports have been circulating in the Indian Country that the Kickapoos attached to the Prophet had ceded to Captain [Matthew] Elliott's son the Silver Mines which it is supposed by Traders and Indians are on the Vermillion and that the British intend to take posession of them and establish a fort on that River in a few months. That as the British would make war on the Americans next Spring an opportunity would then be offered of revenging the death of the Kickapoos who was killed in October last near Detroit. That War talks had been distributed. That great dissatisfaction and angry countenances were manifested by many of the Indians and that In April or May next the Indians intend to hold a Grand Council to consult upon their affairs.

I have just now learned from a source tolerably authentic that the British have dispatched runners to all the chiefs of the different Tribes to invite them to Malden for the purpose of arranging the necessary measures to compel the Government of the United States to admit British Traders to a participation in the Indian trade within the Territory of the United State and that some of the Indians are now on their way to Malden to confer with the British on this subject.

Whether those machinations proceed from the perfidy of the British agents british traders or british Indians within our Territory must for the present be a matter of conjecture. The experience of the last thirty years however authorise the belief that it may be fairly ascribed to the former and I am also inclined to this opinion from the information a spy who was at Malden and Sandwich in September last has given me. He says the British were then intriguing with Pecan and other Chiefs with respect to their trade. It was insinuated that the Indians had a right and ought to insist upon the British Merchants being admitted into their country. That the Indians would derive greater advantages from the trade of the British merchants in respect to the quality and price of goods than from the American. and that the Indians would be invited to Malden in the course of the winter to consult upon the subjects. I have great confidence in the Indian who communicated this information to me.

I give the following anecdote as authorised. Shortly after the peace of 83 the Briti[illegible] agent at Detroit was desirous of prevailing upon the Indians to continue the war against the Americans. A council was assembled at Detroit detection was apprehended and the council removed to the Moravian Towns in Upper Canada there the Indians were promised arms and whatever might be necessary to enable them to prosecute the war and the means devised for their receiving them in such manner as not to implicate the British Government in respect to the Treaty of Peace then recently made between that Government and the United States. A gentleman of respectability now here was at the council.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir
Your Obedient Servnt.

B. PARKE

P. S.

Since writing the above a Miami has sent me a message thr[illegible]gh a respectable Channel that not long since a Kickapoo probably of the Otter Band and a Pottawatomie of Gomas' band came to the Miamies at Mississinneway with a war letter from [illegible]s they said the Pattaw[illegible]tomy and Kickapoo Tri[illegible]. They said that those tribes intended to make war against the United States next Spring. that they might even take some scalps this Winter. they wished the Miamis to unite with them if not they would consider and treat them as enemies. they alleged the sur[illegible]eying the millitary lands between the Illinois and Mississippi and the non arrival of their ammunities as a cause of their hostile views. The Miamis refused to accept their belt.

I have been extremely ill of an influenza but I am so far recovered that I expect to leave home for Co[illegible]don next week and after Court intend to visit you at Jeffersonville. I wish to have a personal conference with you in respect to Indian affairs.

B. P.

Copy of a letter from Judge B. PARKE to Gov. Posey

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 11 1816

Har. Pa. 379, 380

SIR:

The Indians are constantly inquiring when they may expect

their annuities. Much uneasiness and some ill will have been manifested on account of their non arrival and their making this a subject of complaint might probably be considered as an evidence of an unfriendly disposition. I have told them that there had not yet been time to enable the President to send them on. Could the Indians receive their annuities shortly, I believe it would produce the best effects.

From the Indian Treaties published it appears that the Vermillion Kickapoos are not provided for in the manner that the other Wabash Indians have been. The annuity under the Treaty of the 9th Dec. 1809 is not revived. As the latter are to receive the same amount to which they were entitled in 1811 it might be unpolitic to make a solitary exception of the former.

I have the honor to be & B. PARKE

To Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, INDT TER. March 16th 1816

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you two letter [Feb. 11 above] lately received from Judge B. Parke deputy assist and Indian Agent at Vincennes.

I have the honor to be with respect and /esteem Your Ob.t. Servt.

THL. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 15th Feb. 1816

Har. Pa. 370

SIR:

The Little Ducks informs that a short time since a Wea party of Sauky sixty in number, were on their march to punish the Miamis (or rather Weas) for the Death of Renard, (see my letter April 20th 1815) who was crippled at this place last April by Stone Eater but that through the interposition of the Kickapoos they had been induced to abandon the project and return to their own country.

This may appear to be rather an improbable tale but from the well known friendship that has long since subsisted between the Sauks and Kickapoos I think it probable that the little Ducks is correct.

It is proposed by some of the Citizens of the Eastern part of the Territory to petition the President to open a negotiation for extinguishing the Indian title to the Country inhabited by the Delawares.

However desirable it may be to acquire that Country a more improper time than the present could not be selected to make the attempt. The Delawares might not object but the Miamis are joint owners with them of the country watered by White River. No cession of the Former would be valid without the consent of the latter. That I am well assured could not now be obtained and it would be at the risk of a new war that the proposition would be made to them.

The 8th of November last I mentioned to you that it was desirable to obtain permission of the Delawares and Miamis to open a road through the Delaware country or a direct route from Dayton to this place. To this I believe they would accede and for a time nothing more ought to be attempted.

At the same time I mentioned the case of Laframbois' Horse is the horse or an equivalent likely to be recovered? If not tis time I gave Laframbois as I promised a Horse to remunerate him for his loss. Labocetiure is dead. I hope and expect that Laframbois will supply his place the Weas could not make a better choice.

A son of the Grand Poc is substituted by the Kickapoos for the deceased Renard. The latter was a good man the family of the former is one of th most mischievous in the Indian Country.

I have the Honor to be

B. PARKE

Copy of a letter from Judge B. PARKE to Gov. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 19 1816

Har. Pa. 375-378

SIR:

A Weas informs that the Miamis have received a *Talk* from the Winabagoes and other nations in that quarter desiring them to cause the Americans to remove from the Lands on the Wabash purchased in 1809 and that should it be necessary they would render such aid as would enable them to effect it.

The above was first communicated by a very worthless fellow but has since been confirmed by an Indian of a good character and who has long been very much attached to my Interpreter.

A Kickapooe lately from Malden states that two Attawas and Chippeways had been killed at or near Detroit by the Americans and that those tribes were so much irritated that they contemplated hostilities.

Another Kickapoo told my Interpreter at the Fort confidentially that most of the young men of his Tribe were more inclined to war than peace, he stated further that a Kickapoo chief lately from Malden had reported that the British were strengthening themselves in Canada shortly expected a reinforcement of Troops and that they had informed the Indians that as the Americans had violated the Treaty in sheding Indian Blood they would make war on them next spring to avenge their injuries.

You may recollect that towards the close of the Grand Council at Detroit the Prophet with some Kickapoos etc withdrew went over to the British and refused to sign the Treaty. It is to those miscreants that we are indebted for the circulation through the Indian country of so many mischievous tales from Malden.

It might be supposed that the kindness and humanity the candor and integrity manifested by our government in the intercourse with the Indians contrasted with the conduct of the British Government would conciliate and attach them to the former and totally aleniate them from the latter. It is however not the fact, but precisely the reverse. The Americans they almost unanimously distrust and detest but as occasion invites they hesitate not a moment in throwing themselves in the Arms of the British. The most vulgar contemptable trader of the NW. Company can exercise a more extensive and decisive influence over them than the most distinguished agent the President has in employ. And thus it will always be whilst the British Agents or Traders have access to or can maintain any kind of intercourse with them.

There was neither deception or intrigue practised in obtaining the treaty of 1809 it was fairly and honorably negotiated. The several Tribes who were Parties to it were highly gratified with the arrangement and it was probably for a time the most popular treaty ever made on the Wabash. Nine months

after, the Prophet at the instigation of the British and supported by his *posse* of Winebagoes at Tippecanoe first taught the Miamis to believe that they had been deceived and defrauded of the lands acquired by that treaty. Labossieure took the lead amongst the Weas, and until his death persevered in his opposition and murmurs. His memory is warmly cherished by many of the band and I suspect some collusion between them and the distant Indians with respect to the reported threat of the Winebagoes, etc. I believe that some mischievous project is on foot but whether it is confined to a few restless intriguous fellows or extends to tribes I cannot determine probably I may be able to ascertain these facts in the course of two or three weeks.

I have the honor to be B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

DAVIS FLOYD TO POSEY

February 24th 1816

Har. Pa. 371

SIR:

A Delaware Indian by the name of Nagomen Lately on a visits to the trading houses on drift wood River in a confidential manner communicated to a person there in my employ to be communicated to your Excellency that a part of the Potawatomies and a part of the Kickapoos were still mad and would probably strike the white people the ensuing Spring that the British their Fathers would also soon be mad and that they would be supported by them.

This Delaware is a man of considerable consequence in the Delaware nation being one of their first war Chiefs—he is entitled to the confidence of the Americans having accompanied Gen'l Harrison on his expedition against Canada. Whether the uneasiness is general or confined to a few restless vagabonds time alone can develop. Certain it is the fellow who gave the information is sincere in his belief.

I am respectfully your Obedient Servant

DAVIS FLOYD

His Excy Gov. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 29, 1816

Har. Pa. 383

SIR:

The Little Ducks and another Kickapoos inform that there are two Pottawatomis and one Otawas in the neighbourhood of the frontiers who intend to steal some horses and perhaps take a *scalp*.

I am respectfully Sir Your Oby. Servt.

B. PARKE

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, 1st March 1816

Har. Pa. 368

SIR:

From recent information I think it is discoverable that the Indians entertain a hostile temper and disposition toward the U. States. They surely contemplate mischief toward the settlements upon our frontiers and probably upon the whole of the Northwestern frontiers.

I herewith inclose to you copies of sundry letters from Judge B. Parke deputy Indian agent, and one from Maj. Davies Floyd [see above] who is licensed to keep a trading house for the Indians [on Driftwood]. Should any thing further transpire relative to the unfriendly temper of the Indians, it shall be made known to you.

I have the honor to be very respectfully

Your Obt. Servnt

TH. POSEY

Hon. WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES March 6, '16

Har. Pa. 381, 382

SIR:

On Thursday evening, I learned that a few days before an Indian came to a party of Harris' surveyors on the N. W. side of the Wabash, eight or ten miles distant from Fort Harrison defaced the marks they had made on a corner tree and

manifested such a degree of anger and resentment towards them that apprehending he would proceed to open violence, Harris and all his people abandoned their work and came to the Fort. They add that they thought from his *whistling* and *whooping* there was a party within hearing ready to support him. I should infer precisely the reverse believe he was entirely alone and that there was no necessity for discontinuing the survey. The circumstance, however has excited alarm and Harris is not inclined to resume the work unless an arrangement should be made for ensuring the personal safety of himself and hands. I have offered him an escort of friendly Indians which for the present is all that I think necessary. Should he not accept it other measures must I suppose be taken.

A Kickapoo squaw informs my interpreter that many of the Pottawatomies having been invited by the British are gone to Malden and that many more are about proceeding to the same place.

I am very respectfully Sir Your Obt. Servant.

B. PARKE

His Ex. Gov. POSEY

P. S. Your letter of the 23th ult. by Col. [Allen B.] Thorn has been received.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES April 10th, 1816

Har. Pa. 384, 385

SIR:

By the 3rd article of the treaty of Fort Wayne (7th June 1803) it was stipulated that the Tribes who were parties to it should annually receive a quantity of salt, not exceeding one hundred and fifty bushels. The Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos have lately reminded me that they expected the salt to which they were entitled under that article.

No injury has yet been done on the frontiers and the little Ducks and others of the Vermillion Kickapoos vehemently deny any knowledge of the warriors of their tribe contemplating the perpetration of mischief.

Inclosed herewith are two *talks* delivered on Sunday last to Maj. [Willoughby] Morgan at Ft. Harrison. Lafrombois is a Wea and the Ducks a Vermillion Kickapoo. It appears

that they are still indisposed to yeild with respect to the disputed boundary. The Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos are too contemptable to admit of the supposition that this plan of opposition originated with them. The pretention has been advanced under an idea that they would be countenanced and supported by the other Indians. To the British they appear to listen with complaisance and attention, and promptly accede to the arrangement proposed by them. Lafrombois too has received a belt from the british advising the Weas to be quiet and not injure the americans. These stories are intended to amuse, are but half told and the balance may probably be pointed out in a few days. Lafrombois insinuates that I acted improperly in selecting the Indians, I intended to invite to the Council. I told them that I should send for all the Miamis the Vermillion Kickapoos, and the Delawares and as the little Otter of the Prairie was a particular friend of the Vermillion band, frequently transacted business with them and with their own chiefs signed their treaties that I should send for him also but as to the other chief of the Prairie Kickapoos, I should not send for them. The Vermillion Kickapoos are intruders, but they have for many years been in the quiet possession of the country they inhabit on the Wabash and Vermillion and may now be considered as the rightfull occupants.

B. PARKE

Gov. POSEY

P. S. I believe the story of the Squaw. She is of a powerfull family and disregards the Ducks and his squaw. A Kickapoo left the Ft. Hastily just after she arrived, and I believe gave notice to the war party that was approaching our settlements that they were discovered. I am of the opinion that no mischief will be done till the term of the grand council is over. I have attended to your instructions and have no knowledge of any intruders on Indian lands in this Territory.

B. PARKE

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 20th April 1816

Har. Pa. 386-388

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you two talks [following] of the Indians also the copy of a letter just received from Judge B.

Clarke. [Apr. 10 above.] He advised of a meeting that he had with the Indians at Fort Harrison of recent date and that he had appointed the 23 of May for a grand council of the Indians to be held at sd place. He observed that he had communicated with you and given you an account of the result of the meeting apologising to me for the step he had taken; that it was owing to the shortness of the time and the necessity of the communication reaching the department of war in the most speedy manner. He furnished me with copies of his letters communicated to you.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant.

TH. POSEY

Hon'ble WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Lafrombois said that he had but little to communicate and that related to peace. That Pecan had sent a message to all the Miamis informing them that he was about establishing a village at Eel River, and invited them to bring their wives and children there. That they would endeavor to establish their village in the old form. That their presents would be delivered at Ft. Wayne, that the commanding officer at Ft. Wayne told him that there were many dishonest agents but he would see that justice was done them. That the President would fulfill all his engagements with him and that he Lafrombois) had learned that the British had sent a belt to the Kickapoos advising them to remain at peace.

Being asked whether the Indians had thought farther on the subject of the disputed boundary Lafrombois answered that it was the general sentiment amongst the Indians that Gen. Harrison, Barron the Interpretor, and all the Indians who had been at the treaty (probably that of the 30th Sept. 1809) should be called together. That it was probable that some of the Indians did not understand the subject. That the Kickapoos had been sent for but that they had nothing to do with it. That the land never belonged to them.

It being suggested that their opposition to the treaty repeatedly ratified, might be considered unfriendly. Lafrombois observed that were the President offended he could not help it. That it would be hard were the Indians to be de-

frauded of all their land The Little Ducks said that two young men had arrived with belt of wampum from the British. That the Brit[illegible]n told them that they must remain at peace and neither kill the white people or steal their horses. That if they went to war again they would be exterminated that they were too weak. That when the British and Americans made peace, the latter promised to cloth and feed the Indians plentifully but when they looked upon them they saw them naked and starving. That they did not expect this. That the Americans had not complied with their promise. That the young men who brought the belt, had told the Indians, that the British gave them more than they could destroy whilst the Indians within the American Territory had scarcely any thing to eat.

That the British advised the Kickapoos to collect in a village on the Wabash. That they would do so but had not yet fixed upon a place. That the British advised the Miamis to do the same thing and for the Miamies and Kickapoos to live together as friends. That if the Kickapoos saw any of the Pottawatomies moving toward the frontiers for a mischievous purpose they were advised by the british to give information of it to the Americans. (Copy)

B. Parke to Posey

Vincennes April 25 1816

Har. Pa. 390-392

Sir:

O Sunday Little Eyes informed me that the British had advised the Indians not to permit the surveying and settlement of their lands purchased from them untill they received their annuities from the United States. That a talk to that effect had been dispatched to all the Indians of the Indiana and Illinois (and to the Mahas Richards and C. of the Missouri) and further that in the course of this year a great council would be held at Portage Desoux. That an agent of the British would attend it to see that the Indians had justice done them by the U. S. in what ever regarded their lands. He added that the exceptionable conduct of the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos at Fort Harrison was justly to be attributed to the British.

You are acquainted with the favorable opinion I have of

Little Eyes. He has never deceived me and however extraordinary or improbable his communication may appear, I assure you I have no doubt of its truth.

I regret that Little Eyes was not at the council but being at a distant hunting ground he was not invited.

Little Eyes observed the conduct of the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos had been disingenious and flagrantly unjust. That they all knew the land had been sold and the boundary fairly established and that instead of caveling or pretending they knew nothing of the sale they ought frankly to have acknowledged the cause of their objection to the surveying of the land. That his friendship for the U. State induced him to offer me his advice. That when the Indians assembled at Ft. Harrison, I should deliver them their annuities which would instantly remove all obstacles to the quiet occupation of the land. Otherwise, he apprehended they would persist in their opposition.

The sincerity of Little Eyes may be questioned, but whatever was his motive for suggesting this arrangement, it is not to be doubted that the immediate delivery to the Indians of their annuities would have a good effect. Seven months have elapsed since the treaty at Detroit and ere this they profess to believe their goods might have been forwarded. They do not, or will not comprehend the explanations frequently given, as to the cause of this delay. British agents or Traders or disaffected Indians have repeatedly informed them that the U. States would keep their land, but that they would pay them nothing for it. That they need not expect their annuities and that the President would deceive them.

B. PARKE

To Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 4th May 1816

Har. Pa. 359

SIR:

I herewith inclose you a copy of a letter just received from Judge B. Parke, [Apr. 25 above] I think of a nature worthy to be attended to. I have information from other quarters of the same nature. The Indians are very loud and restless in their complaints, of not having received their annuities.

They are under strong apprehension that the U. States mean to defraud them and take their lands from them without making compensation. There is a quantity of salt due them by treaty which is mentioned in a former letter of Judge Parke a copy of which was inclosed to you. I have given them partial supplies of salt, with supplies of provision at different times but they want the quantity of salt stipulated to be given them by treaty. I do not conceive myself authorized to give it to them without directions from the department of war.

I have the Honor to be very respect

Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 11th May 1815

Hist. Pa. 393

SIR:

The information given of the 19th Ult. from the Department of war, came to hand by the last mail. That the annuities due the Kickapoos, Weas, and Peankahaws for the years 1813, 14, 15 and 16 have been ordered to be purchased and sent on to my care and also three thousand two hundred dollars worth of goods to be distributed as presents to the Indians at such times and on such occasions as I may deem proper.

I shall carefully attend to all the instructions and think it very important that the goods should be sent on as speedily as possible.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

Hon WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*

RESOLUTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

CORYDON, INDIANA JUNE 29 1816

Hist. Pa. 410-411

Be it ordained by the Representatives of the people of the Territory of Indiana in Convention met at Corydon on Mon-

day the tenth day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixteen that we do for ourselves and our posterity, agree, determine, declare and ordain that we will and do hereby accept the propositions of the Congress of the United States, as made and contained in their act of the nineteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixteen, entitled "An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State Government and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States". And we do further for ourselves and our posterity, hereby ratify, confirm, and establish the boundaries of the said State of Indiana as fixed, prescribed, laid down, and established in the Act of Congress aforesaid, and we do also further for ourselves and our posterity, hereby, agree, determine, declare, and ordain, that each and every tract of land sold by the United States within the said State, and which shall be sold from and after the first day of December next, shall be and remain exempt from any tax laid by order or under any authority of the said State of Indiana, or by or under the authority of the General Assembly thereof, whether for State, County, or Township, or any other purpose whatever for the term of five years from and after the day of sale of any such tract of land and we do moreover for ourselves and our posterity hereby declare and ordain that this ordinance and every part thereof shall forever be and remain irrevocable, and inviolate without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled first had and obtained for the alteration thereof or any part thereof. Done in Convention June 29th 1816. By order of the Convention.

JONATHAN JENNINGS
President of the Convention

Attest:
WILLIAM HENDRICKS, *Secy.*

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE

JEFFERSONVILLE July 6th 1816
Har. Pa. [illegible]

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you a transcript of the proceedings of the Executive of the Indiana Territory for the last year ending the 30th of June 1816. [Not found] The Con-

vention of the Territory closed its session of three weeks on Saturday the 30th ultimo. They have formed a Constitution, and determined to commence the operations of their State Government the first Monday in November next. I hope it will be in my power to transmit you a printed copy of it by next mail.

I have the honor to be with high consideration of esteem and respect

Yr. most obt. servt.

JNO. GIBSON

The Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Secty. of State*

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES THE MEMORIAL OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That the inhabitants of the said Territory suffer evils from the nature of their political institutions to which it becomes their superiors duty to seek a constitutional remedy. When an interesting portion of the american population unite in forming a wish for an important change in their political situation it may be fairly inferred that no palliative can lessen the evils they endure and it is an happy circumstance that the redress which is the object of the present memorial to obtain has been foreseen provided for and will excite in its accomplishment neither convulsion nor storm.

Your memorialists will not arraign the wisdom of Congress in forming the ordinance for the Government of the Northwestern Territory. They may have had solid reasons for giving to the Territorial or Coloneal governments the singular monarchial feature they now exhibit. But it will be allowed that all those governments present features very little reconcilable to the principles which have governed the institutions of the different states of the Union.

Born and educated in the different states of the Union; in the enjoyment of civil and political rights, they think it hard to be in a degree disfranchised as a people when they have done no crime, but by their migration thither conferred a benefit to the United States.

Your memorialists deeply impressed with a sense of their provincial dependence, in behalf of themselves and constituents now make a solemn appeal to the national Legislature and pray that they may have the liberty of forming a con-

stitution and be admitted as an independent state into the Union upon the same footing as one of the original states. The unexampled increase in population of the state of Ohio warrant the belief that similar consequences would attend the emancipation of Indiana. It is principle and not men or measures that we complain of, and confiding in the justice of our cause we doubt not of our case meeting proper consideration and your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray etc.

GENL. W. JOHNSTON, *Speaker of the House of Representatives*
and
JAS. BIGGS, *President of the Legislative Council*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER 24 Sept. 1816

Harr. Pa. 394, 795

SIR:

At different shipments from the arsenal near Pittsburg sent on by Maj. [Abram R.] Woolley, I have received a few days since the whole of the goods ordered by Government to my address. The U. S. present and the annuities for the Weas, Kickapoos and Pyankashaws for the years 1813-14-15 and 16. And yesterday I shipped them to Vincennes to be delivered there to Judge B. Parke to whom I have given directions to send them immediately on to Ft. Harrison for distribution, except the Pyankashaws annuities which I have directed to be stored at Shawneetown under the care of Mr. Joseph U. Street subject to be called for by Col. Pierre Menard Indian Agent at Kaskaskia for him to deliver to the Pyankashaws agreeable to the solicitation of Governors [William] Clark and [Jonathan] Edwards by whom I was informed that it would be very inconvenient for the Pyankashaws to attent at Ft. Harrison. They living at a considerable distance therefrom and they being miserably poor and needy the four hundred dollars that I am authorized to draw upon the department of war for to be paid them in cash if equally convenient to government I would be glad to obtain an order upon the receiver at Vincennes or Kaskaskia for.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Your Ob. Servant

THO. POSEY

P. S. I shall attend at Fort Harrison by the time the goods reach there for the purpose of distributing them.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 29th Sept. 1816

Harr. Pa. 337

SIR:

Yours of the 6th inst. I have received giving information of my appointment together with Judge B. Parke and Phidilio Sharp for holding a treaty with the Indians for a purchase of land. I have also received a letter of instructions relative thereto of the 12th inst. and shall pay the necessary attention to the business. I have written on to Judge Parke and Mr. Sharp and expect an arrangement will take place immediately to carry into execution the design of the President. The goods sent on to me to be distributed to the Indians at present I expect to make use of while engaged in the treaty and it may be that I shall have to make some purchases. I shall order supplies of provisions but it will also be necessary to have the command of some money, could an arrangement be made to get money from some of the receivers of this part of the country or from some of the Banks? Of this you will please inform me.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Your Obt Servant

TH. POSEY

Hon the Secty. of War WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 24th Oct. 1816

Harr. Pa. 33

SIR:

I arrived here on Monday in order to meet some Indian chiefs that are here and am on my way to Ft. Harrison to the Treaty to be held there. The Water is so extremely low that the Indian annuities and presents have not yet reached this place. I am anxiously waiting for them and shall go on to Ft. Harrison with them for the purpose of distribution. Three chiefs are here to visit myself and Judge Parke. Little Eyes and Saco of the Weas. I am very attentive to them, have made them some presents etc. They appear to be in a pretty good humor we have met and conversed several times sometimes upon the business of the land, but very lately upon

that subject whenever it is mentioned it comes from themselves. We dont wish to say much upon that subject until they receive their annuities and presents. I ship'd the Indian goods from Jeffersonville all in good order on the 27th Ult. Since here I have sent an express to know what detains them and to know at what time we may expect them. The success of the Treaty very much depends upon a speedy distribution of the annuities and presents. I think the business in a pretty good train and that there can scarcely be any doubt of success in the purchase of some land more or less the least quantity may be a million of acres a great chance for more. We may be under the necessity of making more presents than what is committed to my charge—for that purpose $3,200 is the ammount.

I have this moment heard from the boat bringing on the Indian goods. The goods are all safe, but the boat cannot progress for want of water. I must use some method by small craft or waggoning to get them on. The treaty will hold on the eleventh next month.

I have the honor to be very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

Honble. WM. H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES Nov. 21 1816

Hist. Pa. MSS.

SIR:

In furnishing an estimate of the expenses of the Indian Dept. at this place I have thought it would be but to exhibit a statement of the disbursements that have been made on account of that Dept. from the time I came into office up to the present period and which appears from the papers herewith enclosed marked A & B. From these you will be enabled to judge of the propriety of the estimate mark C, and which is also enclosed.

The Pyankashaws having removed beyond the Mississippi, I forwarded annuities to the Agent at Kaskaskia and he has delivered them to the Indians and believing that the Govt. would hereafter send them on to that place, I have not included therein the estimate enclosed.

My intercourses with the Delawares, Upper Miamis and Poltawatamies has not been such as to enable me to ascertain the number of persons belonging to those tribes. The Weas amount to four hundred and sixty and the Vermillion Kickapoos to four hundred and forty persons.

I have the Honor to be very respectf.

Sir Your Obedient Servant.

[THOMAS POSEY]

An Estimate of the Expenses of the Indian Dept. at Vincennes for year 1817

Annuities				Presents		Provisions		Transportation		House rent & Fuel	
Weas		Kickapoos									
Dols	cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dol.	Cts.	Dol.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls	cts.
1150	..	1000	..	[illegible]	..	5000	..	50	..	75	..

Expenses.		Some Work at Vincennes		Agent		Interpretor		Gun Smith at Ft. Harr.	
Dols	Cts.	Dols	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dol.	Cts.
100	..	60	..	1500	..	1248	..	1095	..

Express Rider from Vincennes to Ft. Harrison		Total	
Dollars	Cts.	Dollars	Cents
319	37½	16587	37½

Abstract of provision issued by the Contractor to the Indians at Vincennes and Fort Harrison from the 1st of September 1814 to 1st November 1816

At Vincennes

	pounds of beef	pounds of flour	pounds of pork		pounds of soap
Sep & Oct 1814	1976	776			
November	691	310			
December	812	788½	58	6½	
January 1815	423	417	392	12½	
February	29	340	339	5½	
March	104	791	[illegible]	3	
April	59	43	463		
May	58	716	209	8	
June	292	193			
July	189	189			
August	288	281		3	
September	394	394		12	
October	247	237		3	
	5525	5571½	2100	53½	
November	635	735		11	
December	196	276		28	
January 1816	410	515		34	2
February	325	410		30	
March	254	254		16	
April	168	388	70	67	
May	90	440	370	40	
June		141	141		
July	75	566	421	39	
August		1033	913	43	
September	140	1012	966		
				Qts of Salt	
October	110	1002	1772	62	
	2103	7702	4673	376	2
brt. Down	5525	5571½	2100	53½	
Total	7928	13273½	6773	429½	2

At Ft. Harrison

	pound. of beef	pounds of flour	pounds of Pork	Qts. of Salt	qts. Whiskey	Ps. soap
Sept & Oct. 1811						
November						
December						
January 1815						
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October	876	876		64½		
	876	876		64½		
November						
December						
January 1816						
February	15	12½			1	
March	453	282			72	
April	54½	65¾			31½	
May	2093	3150	375		50	14
June	1521½	2847	1306		266½	
July						13
August						
September	3170	1375	367	13	242	
October						
	7300	12032½	2048	13	672	27
brought down	876	876		64½		
Total	8176	12908½	2048	77½	672	27

Abstract of the Expenses other than provisions, &c. laid by the Contractors of the Indian Department

	Annuities						Presents		Provisions	
	Weas		Kickapoo		Pyan.					
	Dolls.	Cts	Dol.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts
For the year 1813							68	50	6	
" " " 1814							917	33	659	25
" " " 1815							3778	67½	1261	25
" " " 1816	4000		4000		3600		13423	50½	1121	87
	4000		4000		3600		18,188	13½	3012	25

Transportation		House Rent and Fuel for Indians		Express		Keeping Ind. Horses		Keeping Public Horses & horse hire	
Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts	Dol.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts
....	....	33	.	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38	....
....	....	13	25	50	....	....	....	....	....
101	50	115	....	156	25	32	....	52	25
7709	12½	43	75	140	....	8	75	10	....
7810	62½	207	....	340	25	40	75	100	25

Ferriages		Medical Aid		GunSmith Work At Vincennes		
Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	
3	....	....		....		Note. There is now on hand of the above amount of Provisions laid
3	....	35	.	351	67½	for the year 1816
4	50	....	.	594	56	Amt. for. by Gov. 3250
						of goods par. in 2085
10	50	....		849	23½	5285 Dol.

Department under the superintendence of [illegible]

Gunsmith Work at Ft. Har.				Assistant Indian Agent.		Com. Sp. Ind. Agents		Interpreters			
Wages		Purchase of Shop & Iron.						Vincennes		Fort Harrison	
Dol.	Cts	Doll.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	300	....	....	....
.....	....	.....	....	80	....	30	....	624	....	60	20
890	....	181	75	480	....	372	....	624	....	511	....
915	....	.....	....	400	....	1111	75	580	....	533	60
1805	....	181	75	960	....	1514	25	2224	....	1104	80

Extra Allowance to Interpretors		Occasionates Interpretors		Express Rides from Vincennes to Fort Harrison		Total	
Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	191	50
137	....	10	50	....	....	2022	60½
51	....	50	12½	39	....	8	[illegible]
16	50	.....	....	307	37½	3212	30½
204	50	60	62½	3[illegible]	36½	44,490	30½

Posey to Secretary of War

VINCENNES 6th Dec [illegible]

Hon. Pe[illegible]

SIR:

Yours of the 23d Sept. I rec'd at this place. In order to lay before the Indians the subject which you have recommended respecting the furnishing them mechanics I [illegible] it would afford you a good opportunity to recommend to them

to go into a State of civilization for unless they have a motive to become civilized, Mechanics will be of very little use to them. Therefore I made a speech to them upon the subject a copy of which I herewith enclose to you [following]. What I have said is merely recommendatory and not positively engaging that government will comply with what I advise, except as to furnishing them with mechanics for which they were to make a compensation. I hope what I have recommended to the Indians may not be thought to arrogate, or exceeding the duty of an Indian agent. I should like to have the sentiments of the Department of war upon the subject which I have recommended to the Indians; for I would not by any means have the thought that I would do anything contrary to the sentiments of government. The Indians received (apparently) my advise with great attention, and by their reply was well pleased that their father the Americans would have so tender a regard for them as to assist them in endeavoring to civilize them. They said they would take the subject into consideration and after making it generally known among their people they would probably by next spring give an answer; and as to the subject of receiving the mechanics it should be considered separately.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

The Honble The Secretary of War
CITY OF WASHINGTON

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY GOVERNOR POSEY AGENT FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS TO SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY INDIANS AT FT. HARRISON

22nd Novr. 1811

Har. Pa. 404-4

My Children: I am happy to meet with you this day and to have this opportunity to open my mind and speak to you. Unstop your ears, open your eyes, look, hear and consider well what your father's exhortation is going to say to you. Let it sink deep into your hearts, and if you approve of my advice you should follow it, but you have a right to follow it or not as you may think proper, tho I must request you to keep this my advice in your memory and tell it to your chil-

dren your children's children and let it be handed down to future generations what Weaetonon now says to you.

My Red Children: Weas, Kickapoos, Potatwatomies, Chiefs and Warriors and whatever other bands may be present, a great many of you are collected here at this place, look up to the great Spirit, the Father and creator of the Heavens the earth, and every living creature; He is now looking down upon us; He knows our hearts and is acquainted with every thing that is done either by us or in any way whatever. If we do what pleases him he smiles upon us and will reward us if anything that displeases him he is angry and will punish us either in this world or in the world where our Spirits go and probably in both.

My Children: The Great Spirit has put his laws into the hearts of all his children of whatever complexion, whether white, Red or Black; of whatever nation tongue and kindred, they all know when they do right and when they do wrong, as well be acceptable to your father the President and great council of the nation.

My children: Look and see how happy many of the people around you have got into a settled state. See the Cherokees, the Chickasaws, Choctaws and some of the Creeks, they live happy and are increasing. Why not follow their example and be happy too? They have their good houses, their good plantations, stock of every kind to subsist on, and a great deal to sell to the white people. Many of them are getting very rich. Do you follow their example. They don't steal and plunder the white people and one another. Now my advice to you is in order to be at peace and friendship with the White people, and with each other that you do not steal and plunder, and if you have anything that some of your bad men have taken, deliver it up that the right owner may get it again. We have some bad men among us as well as you have but we strive to keep them from stealing, plundering and treating you ill, and if they have anything belonging to you it must be restored to you.

My Children: This may be the last time I may ever see you but if the great Spirit pleases to give me life and health I expect to see you again next spring, when you expect to see us or some others that your father the President will send to meet you upon the business for which we were sent to see you, and have a talk. We all know that it is our duty to love

the great Spirit and keep his laws; [illegible] us all every good things—with which we eat, drink and wear—that we ought to love him, and he has told us to love him, to keep his laws, in our hearts, to love one another love our fathers, mothers, our brothers and sisters and our wives and children. We must do no wrong one to another; we must be in peace with all men—not kill, not steal and not have malice in our hearts one to another.

My Children: Your Father the President, the great American Council wish you well and wish you to be in friendship and at peace with the American people, with one another and with all nations of people; they wish you to be happy, and would assist you if you would strive to make yourselves happy.

My Children: I have grown old in the service of my country. I have served as a war chief in time of war and have served in time of peace. I have seen and experienced a great deal of the transactions between man and man, and can give you good advice. The time has come that men are wiser, more enlightened, have greater experience and know more the great spirit than formerly.

My Children: Your father the President and great American council wish to see you happy and hear that you have a desire to be settled, I am authorized to tell you and my advice to you seeing and knowing (altho you possess a great deal of land) your subsistance by hunting has diminished and is daily decreasing, the wild animals by which you used to be supported have got so scarce that it [illegible] with great difficulty (in many parts where you reside) furnish yourselves with nourishment—then my children why not set about immediately to alter your mode of life? Settle yourselves in villages or otherwise, raise stock of every kind particularly cattle and hogs, cultivate the earth, raise corn and other kinds of subsistance, build houses, and learn the useful arts; have your children taught to read and write and to love the Great Spirit and serve him. If you incline to follow my advice you must give me information as soon as you can. And I will give information to your father the President and great Council of the Nation, who I have no doubt will assist you, they will send tradesmen to show you how to build houses and make necessary furniture, to make ploughs, axes, hoes, and every kind of usefull tool; you will have men sent to show you how to cultivate your fields; you have some horses that may be

[illegible] to plough, and more can be furnished; you will have oxen, carts, sled, and harness of every kind useful for you and you will have women sent to teach your women how to spin, weave, and make your clothing, to make a beginning useful tools and implements of husbandry, and some provision will be sent to you.

Now my Children: Although a great deal may be given to you, you know that all these services cannot be done for nothing; some compensation must be made you have it in your power to make such kind of compensation with you, when you expect, to have the Benefits and Annuities with you. But in the meantime if you should make up your minds upon the subjects which I have mentioned to you, you must make it known to me. The way will always be open to me for communication. If you make your mind known to Major [John T.] Chun who commands at Ft. Harrison to and [illegible] Parke or Joseph Barron Interpreter at Vincennes it will soon find me. I shall be either at Vincennes or at no great distance from thence. It may be that I shall be at Ft. Harrison again in the course of a month or two your annuities will be delivered to you as soon as the count[illegible] brought up, after which we shall part for this time, and now I pray that the great Spirit may take you into his Holy keeping, and guide you unto all truth and do not forget what Weactonon has said to you, he will always do what the great Spirit may enable him to do for your good. You have given me the name of Weactonon, I think it an honorable name, and shall hand it down to my Children. I now shake hands with you Gamelin or Madison; Little-Eyes or Washington, Stone-eater, Jackson, Little Otter, Little Ducks, Negrolege Yellow-hair, and the rest of the Village and War Chiefs.

To this speech several of the chiefs replied and was well pleased saying they would give an answer on or before next spring. That in the meantime they would consult their respective bands and tribes and make the contents of the speech known generally among them.

[illegible] TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 10th [illegible]

Harr. Pa. p. 90

SIR:

Yours of the 7th Octr. I received at this place early in Novr. Agreeable to the requisition therein contained and to

order to make up [illegible] upon the subject as correct and properly [illegible] upon [illegible] forms the names and probable number of the tribes [illegible] my superintendency, the amount of the annuities paid them, the amount of [illegible] other than provision which ought to be distributed among them, the annual expense of provisions issued to them, and an estimate of the authorized and contingent expenses of my agency, including not only the items just enumerated, but also my pay and emoluments and those of the interpreters and other persons in my employment as agent.

When I received your letter I was on my way to treat with the Indians at Ft. Harrison, I had not documents with me, and I thought by postponement of the report to you I could make it much more satisfactory after the treaty. When the treaty broke up and I returned to this place I immediately set about to make the report, but there were documents at Jeffersonville [illegible] necessary to be obtained. I have dispatched an express which I expect will return in a few days, but not in time for the report to go by the return of next mail which will be on the 12th Inst. tho. the report could be ready to send in a few days after. By the next opportunity, and it will be certainly sent on, and will reach you the first or second week of Jany. next.

The business of the agency I find increasing very much. The salary of the agency as annexed to this office of Governor of the Territory was $840, this sum as a salary for the agent of this station (Ft. Harrison and its dependencies) is surely very inadequate. The duties of the agent are probably equal to those discharged by any other agent, and of course the salary ought to be equal. I wish the President to take this subject into consideration, and that you would advise me what I am to receive as my salary from the time I went out of office as Governor of Indiana Territory.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

Your Obt. Servt.

Th. Posey

[illegible], Secretary of War

City of Washington

Report of Harrison Investigation

January 23, 1817

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 6

Mr. Richard M. Johnson made the following report:

The select committee to whom were referred the letter and documents from the acting Secretary of War on the subject of General Harrison's letter, (Dec. 29, 1815) ask leave to report:

That they have investigated the facts involved in this inquiry by the examination of documents, and a great number of the most respectable witnesses personally acquainted with the transactions upon which the inquiry originated; and the committee are unanimously of opinion that General Harrison stands above suspicion, as to his having had any pecuniary or improper connexion with the officers of the commissariat for the supply of the northwestern army; that he did not wantonly or improperly interfere with the rights of contractors, and that he was in his measures governed by a proper zeal and devotion to the public interest. The committee ask leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject; and, as the papers refer in part to the conduct and transactions of the contractors of the northwestern army, whose accounts are unsettled, and only incidentally involved in this inquiry, that the papers be transmitted to the Department of War.

Communicated to the House of Representatives.

Harrison to Choteau

North Bend, 14th Nov. 1817

Choteau Mss. 4, 1 Louis Mercantile Library

Dear Sir:

The lapse of years has not obliterated from my memory the civilities I received from you on my several visits to St. Louis. I wish now to add to the obligation by requesting for the bearer hereof Mr. Jno. L. Wilkins any aid you may have in your power to afford him in the prosecution of his views. He wishes to be employed as a Teacher of youth being well acquainted with the Latin and Greek Languages and the Mathematics.

He lived for a considerable time as a tutor in my family

and has since superintended an Academy in Shelbyville Ky. in both of which situations he has given great satisfaction. Any civilities or services you may render him will be acknowledged by me.

Be pleased to present me in the most respectful terms to Madame Choteau to your brother and his family and those of McFoundland and Mr. Grafiot.

I am yr's with great respect and Regard

WILLIAM H. HARRISON

AUG. CHOTEAU, Esq.

HARRISON TO TIPTON

NORTH BEND NEAR CLEVES 6th Dec. 1823

Tipton Mss. Ind. State Library

DEAR GENERAL

I have had your remarks on the articles which appeared in the *Kentucky Intelligencer* republished in the Hamilton *Intelligencer* of this state in which one of the forms was published some time last summer. My own reply will come out next Saturday. I thought it best to publish some documents which were furnished by Waller Taylor & others, when those infamous charges which the writer of the *Kentucky Intelligencer* has revived first made their appearance in print, and that they should be accompanied with some explanatory remarks from myself. This would have been unnecessary if your publication had been under your proper signature. At least it would have been so far as my vindication was concerned.

I beg you to believe that I feel the warmest gratitude for the kind feeling you express for me in the conclusion of your piece. Indeed it has been a source of the greatest gratification to me amidst the persecutions I have suffered that I have rarely failed to find a friend when ever I meet with one who has served under my command or with me under the command of others. An instance of the latter occurred this day. A man who now resides in Indiana & who served with me six years as a Corporal in the first U. S. Reg. Infy. under Generals St. Clair & Wayne, called on me. The moment I laid my eyes on him I knew him as the person who at the instant he was about to be scalped I had the happiness to

stop the proceedings by handing to the Court [illegible] pardon from the commanding general. He was [illegible] a very handsome young man of 22. His crime [illegible] having ordered his guard (which he commanded [illegible] of the militia of the army) to kill one of them. [illegible] come from the gallantry he had displayed in the [illegible] the rapids of the Miami of the lake a few weeks before [illegible] which he had received a flesh wound. Never did I see a [illegible] brave death with more fortitude. Until the pardon was pronounced his countenance was marked by a sullenness which he felt as he informed me from the ignominy which had been assigned to him. When his sentence was pronounced & the rope removed from his neck he leaped out of the waggon in which he had been placed, took a young girl (who was his mistress & who had stood weeping by the side of the waggon) in his arms kissed her & fondled his child, [illegible] the laughter which the circumstances produced & [illegible] off of the ground (which had been turned out on the occasion) with equal indifference. I believe it was proved on him that he was absent from his guard when they killed the [illegible] but that could not be admitted as any [illegible] crime by the Court martial. This man whose name is [illegible] Redding came to get from me a certificate of his [illegible] Having heard of the probability of the soldiers of the [illegible] wars being placed upon the pension list. It appeared that such ought to be the case. The troops who [illegible] Harmar, St. Clair & Wayne underwent excessive fatigue & received a very small compensation. The private was allowed only $3 dollars per month. For a year and [illegible] Ensign on the pay of $15 per month & two rations [illegible] I fared miserably so high was every necessary that I could not live upon it & procure proper Regimentals. When I became the Aide-de-Camp of the Commanding General I received the pay & emoluments of a Major of the [illegible] was $64 per [illegible] rations & $1. for forage for month for this was barely sufficient to keep me in clothing & equipments. I was obliged to keep two horses & [illegible] fit for an aid de camp could not be obtained [illegible] from $150 to $250. I say fit for [illegible] none but those of great [illegible] & strength could answer for that service. [illegible]

soon as later might be productive of the most serious consequences. I know indeed two instances in which the lives of officers bearing important orders were preserved by the fleetness and activity of their horses. At the siege of Fort Meigs on the eventful 5th of May, I had sent the squadron of dragoons under the command of Capt. Ball to cover the landing of Gen. Clay's troops above the fort. Seeing with my glass that Ball (in the plain on the River) was about to be attacked from the high ground, within rifle distance, by a body of Indians (my aid de camp being at that moment otherwise employed) I sent Quarter Master Eubank to direct Ball to ascend the hill & drive off the Indians who were posted on the flank of the route of Clay's troops to the Fort. Eubanks route was also along that plain which exposed him likewise to the fire of the Indians. To give him every possible chance I mounted him on one of my own horses. As I anticipated, the Indians kept a fire on him before he got one fourth part of the way but being under full speed he was not hit. There ran a ditch through the plain which had been dug to drain a pond. Unluckily, Eubank came to the part which was widest and deepest. He spurred his horse and the leaped but the horse frightened at the yellow clay bank on the opposite side suddenly wheeled & ran off. E. however stopped & turned him & giving him the whip & spur again brought him up & obliged him to take the leap, a most formidable it was.

The Indians were all the while firing at him but so extremely rapid was his movement that the Indians being much above him he escaped unhurt. The other instance to which I referred occurred to myself at the Battle of the Rapids of the Miami (not Maumee) of the lake. Whilst the advanced light troops were engaged with the Indians & the infantry of the line were forming Col. Wayne sent me with an order to the dragoons on the right to charge for the purpose of checking the advance of the enemy until the line was formed. As the nearest way, I took the diagonal line in front of the Infantry. When I reached the point opposite the right battalion of the 1st sub legion they were engaged with the Indians who had driven in the light troops which covered that part of the line. I was thus exposed to the fire of both [illegible] my gallant steed bore me onward with unabated [illegible]

escaped unhurt. If I oblige you with [illegible] teresting to all but those who were concerned in [illegible] me to attribute it to my having [illegible] curity of your constituent old Redding. My [illegible] in writing this letter is to enquire whether you [illegible] thing of a Delaware chief called Nicoming who was [illegible] at the battle of the Thames & an other Red Lit[illegible] of the same tribe. The latter was the person ([illegible] 18 years old) who saved my life by killing the Indian [illegible] was sent by the indigenent Indians to assassinate me [illegible] I was with the army at Sandusky. My [illegible] in enquiring after these men is to get them to go with [illegible] on an expedition I meditate up the Missouri on to the frontiers of Mexico. Notwithstanding the great sacrifice of property I have made to pay my own debts & those for which I was bound as security I still owe about $[illegible] the greater part as endorser for Thomson Kobb[illegible] of Cincinnati who is quite able to pay it if he had the inclination to do it. I have been employing every exertion in my power to make my agricultural pursuits productive enough to pay my current expenses as well as the interest of my debts & gradual reduction of the capital. I have not yet succeeded. I have however a project in progress which may prevent the necessity of recurring to the scheme above mentioned. I am preparing an apparatus for [illegible] drying corn in the manner practiced at the Brandywine mills. If it succeeds as I expect I can put my corn in a state either ground or unground to be transported to the distant markets without risk of [illegible] & at considerable profit. If it does not succeed I can have recourse to the other project. But as such an undertaking must be commenced in May or June it is necessary [illegible] some of the steps necessary to its success in the course of this winter. Two Indians such as I know Nicoming & the Beaver to be may be of great service to me on an expedition of the kind I contemplate. You will say perhaps that such an enterprise is not suitable to my advanced age. If my head alone [illegible] I would have no hesitation in undertaking it. My constitution seems suited to exposure & hardship. But [illegible] if my corn drying scheme fails I shall have [illegible] The Bank U. S. which is my creditor for all [illegible] debt must soon [illegible]

of my property that should I be obliged to sell so much as would clear me of debt I should be left without the means of supporting the large family or more properly families which are dependent upon me. Various other schemes have been thought of, examined & abadoned. It would require a great deal of time to qualify me for the bar or for the practice of Physic altho I was a student of the latter for nearly two years before I entered the army. I never could succeed in the mercantile business even if I had capital to commence it. Such pursuits are neither congenial to my nature or the habits of my life. I might take one of the large Hotels in Cincinnati but the same objections oppose it, with the additional one of the burden it would impose upon my family. To the hunting & trapping expedition no objection can be made but the one above suggested viz personal hardships & personal hazard. These I was never accustomed to regard when I was in the service of my country neither should they form an obstacle to an enterprise having for its object the advantage of my family.

I have heard from my son Benjamin within a few days. He was then on the Big Horn River and was contemplating a small trapping expedition further west on his own account.

I send you enclosed the Hamilton paper containing the "Volunteer" & the Editors remarks on the publications of the *Kentucky Intelligencer*.

I present my respects to my friend Hendricks.

I am Dear General

Very Sincerely yr friend

W. H. Harrison

P. S. A nephew of mine will be in Washington this winter on some business with Congress. He is from the county of Va with Gov. Tyler. I have enclosed a line of introduction to him. He is a highly respectable & amiable man. Gov. T will inform you of his arrival. I enclose you

Hon[orable] Gen. JOHN TIPTON

HARRISON TO TIPTON

NORTH BEND 2nd May 1831

Tipton MSS. Ind. Hist. Library

DEAR GENERAL

Your letter enclosing the article from the *Vincennes* reached me in due time. It found me in bad health, in bad spirits

[illegible] more like a romance than I have ever done [illegible] not [illegible] before, & throughout the [illegible] friend to [illegible] it would have [illegible] I still [illegible] I might answer it & in the most [illegible] to three of the gentlemen who were in my staff at the battle of the Thames to see if their recollections of the circumstances agree with mine.

I have received answers from all & all coincide with me in their relation of the facts bearing on the case.

When you have them you will be convinced that this attack (also as you say it is a small one) is as malignant a one as any of those which for near 20 years have been made upon me. I send the extract just forwarded to Colo. Todd but if I recollect aright it asserts that "Condr Perry & several other American Officers as well as British officers who knew Tecumseh saw and recognized his body." Now I will venture my head if Condr Perry or any of the American officers or any American Soldier who was in the action had ever seen Tecumseh in their lives, myself only excepted I would stake the same venture that not one of the British regular army saw the body that was supposed to be T—. For early in the morning after the action I sent them down the river to a farm house & only two of them were permitted to return again to our camp in charge of an officer to search for some baggage which had been plundered from them by the women of their own army. I was persuaded that not one of them heard any thing certainly about the death of T—e until after their arrival at Detroit & then only the rumour. The British troops forming the left wing of the army could not see & could not possibly know what passed between the Indians & those who were opposed to them in the swamp on their right. I have said that no British officer of their Regular army had seen & recognized the body of Tecumthe & in this I am supported by Colo. Tod who was the A. G. Inspector Gen'l. of the army (& the Senior officer of that department present) to whom the chiefs and British officers were called only & by Colo. O'Callaghan & Major Chambers the former one of my regular Aids de Camp & the latter a volunteer Aid de camp. That neither of these two former nor myself (until I got the [illegible] letter from Chambers) ever heard that it had been Colo Butler a Mingo, or

Sandwich and a Militia Colonel to see the body. [illegible] off not having been [illegible] in his letter.

In the morning after the action I understood that a Canadian who had been employed in the wood had found the body of T—e was killed I went to see it. [illegible] had seen Tecumthe wounded mortally & that the Indians had wounded him. If I am not mistaken this man (the Canadian) died of a wound he had received. Another Canadian informed O'Fallon that he was told on the retreat that T—e was killed. He said he would easily [illegible] T—e & I directed O'F to take the men & examine the [illegible] left on the ground. He reported to me that they had recognized a body as T—e & declared that an other body which lay near it was the Prophets. But that body had two [illegible] The Prophet was known to have but one & the [illegible] I took [illegible] Perry & several other officers & went to examine the body which had been the last killed as [illegible] I found it in the situation described by Cleveland & [illegible] much mangled & [illegible] I was certain that I knew the person before but could not determine whether it was T—e or a Potawatimi Chief who had always been [illegible] when ever I had seen him.

The face was much swollen & it appeared to have been [illegible] with a Tomahawk or something else over the right [illegible] head. O'Fallon says the body had on a [illegible] shirt when he saw him. I think however the body was entirely naked or the shirt was rolled up above the breast when I saw it. The British writer says that he was *"distinguished* by wearing a leather shirt" now although you were many hundred miles from the Thames at the time yet from your knowledge of the predilection of the N. A. Indians for that article of dress you would no doubt give it as your opinion that one of the 1800 or 2,000 Indians who were in the action [illegible] Nine tenths of the whole number of Indians [illegible] these must have been some "distinguished" [illegible] the body I would not suffer any person who had been attached to the British army to [illegible] desirous that it should be [illegible] I never considered loss of honour by it. But [illegible]

[illegible] the story of the [illegible] account to Dr. [illegible] for an expedition to the upper lakes. I prepared my official dispatch on my arrival at [illegible] remained in a great degree [illegible] I was however morally certain that he was killed but one account states him being wounded & taken off. I was unwilling to run the risk of having my report contradicted by the best evidence viz. that of [illegible] his [illegible] Provost. My dispatch was submitted to Gov. Shelby for his correction if there was any error. He made none & declared that ample justice was done to all concerned. If I had mentioned the probability of T—e's death [illegible] have with any sort of justice attributed it to any individual nor indeed [illegible] had been [illegible]. From my own knowledge I should have attributed it to the infantry, because I knew that they had encountered the Indians near the spot. As I found myself hotly engaged with the Indians when I repaired from the right to the left of our line, it was not [illegible] Johnson's Corps should come in contact with the Indians or did I know until I saw [illegible] in McAfee's history what extent it had done so. I knew indeed that Colo. J— had been wounded by Indians for he told me so [illegible] he had killed one of them, when I visited him shortly after the action. I have been endeavouring to recollect what I was that I first heard that it was supposed that T—e was killed by Colo. Johnson. I am satisfied that it was not until my return to Ohio in the Febry. following & I believe not [illegible] some time in the spring. Chambers (who went immediately home after the action) says that he is satisfied that he did not hear it for several months & so say both Todd & O'Fallon. The latter says that "when he returned to Ky after the war was over he was asked this question "whether if Colo. Johnson did kill an Indian [illegible] no more probability that it was T—e than any other." And he avowed [illegible] Now this is precisely the ground that I always took. When over the circumstance was mentioned to me [illegible] referred to the fact that Colo. J. had informed me immediately after the action that he [illegible] he could have heard that [illegible]

good authority [illegible] had said to Col. Procter a few days before at Chatham [illegible] that he was determined to conquer or die. (His expression was "I swear by God Harrison or I shall lay my bones") I concluded that it was most probable that seeing from the position of Colo. Jn that he was the Comdr. of the party which was about to assail him T—e had singled him out rushed upon him & fell in the contest. This opinion I have always expressed. The object of the author of the "friend to truth" is to fix upon me the crime of having withheld the information of the death of Tecumthe from enmity to or jealousy to Colo. J—n. Far from feeling any enmity toward him I was upon the most intimate terms of friendship with him. There was not indeed an individual in the army for whom I felt a warmer regard. And as to jealousy in the name of common sense of what could I be jealous? Of his bravery? No between I have done him in this respect ample justice. None but Col. Davies[illegible] & this [illegible] & fool who dares to assume the garb of "truth" would ever have [illegible] the Commdr. in chief of an army being jealous of the gallantry of a field officer. But whatever might have been my feelings I certainly never held it any secret that Col. J—ns was the arm by which T—e came to his death until some months after. Indeed I am certain not until I had resigned my commission in the army. None of J-ns. corps knew T—e nor did T—e or any of his Indians know Johnson. Of course it could only be ascertained this latter kind the former by an investigation & a comparison of circumstances & this was not done until after the campaign. The British officers of course could have known nothing of the matter as they were in an other part of the field & had sufficient occupation in the action & no opportunity of making inquiries afterward.

Whatever information in relation to the affair which they gave to the British historian they must have acquired while they were prisoners in Kentucky. If truth really was the object of the writer who made this attack upon me ought he not to have been struck with the circumstance that neither the Western historian of the war nor any one in the Western Country had blamed me for not mentioning the death of Tecumthe. [illegible] less than two of the histories of the war were written by members of Johnsons corps. One by [illegible] Captain (Mcaffee now on [illegible]

[illegible] Brown of N. York [illegible]
[illegible] the Post. & you [illegible] them all with [illegible]
friends of Gen. Jackson spoke of my *whole* conduct [illegible]
marked opposition. But I am tired of [illegible]
my friends have strongly protested against [illegible]
ing in print in answer to the vile slanders [illegible]
to be [illegible] some years ago sent an anonymous [illegible]
to the Editor of the New York *Courier & Advocate* in which it was
said that when our troops gained the enemy's works I was found
to be found & that Col. J—n made all the arrangements for
the action. I strongly suspect that I could [illegible]
the author of both. I must explain it upon you my dear [illegible]
not to publish this letter [illegible] *manner or shape*.

I have been obliged to [illegible] my interest [illegible] the
West. In Febry. I was [illegible] to go to N. Orleans to
obtain through the assistance of [illegible] friends [illegible]
the means of carrying my project [illegible] execution when I was
arrested by a violent illness [illegible] the effects of which I am
not to this moment [illegible] & to my astonishment & great
regret my son Benjamin returned from the Rocky Mountains
soon after [illegible] in his trip he contrived to squander [illegible]
$1,500 in a manner totally unaccountable. Since I commenced
this letter my son Scott returned from N. O. On his way
down he lost one of his boats & nearly the whole cargo. It
was sunk by the falling of trees & it was with no small [illegible]
that him & Benjamin & two boys that were in the boat
saved their lives. Our entire loss is about $[illegible]00. I had [illegible]
legible] only $400 & the cargo would have sold readily for
$1100. In my advanced age I am not a favorite of Fortune.
But come what may, neither to her frowns nor to the [illegible]
& persecutions I have experienced & may still experience from
those from whom I had a right to expect different treatment
will make me succumb. I will, to use the language of the
Tennessee Colonel, endeavor still to "go ahead" although my
exertions are [illegible] so like the boy on the sled I go too fast
backward for one that I go for[illegible].

But amidst all my difficulties I have a consolation in
knowing that I have a few faithful friends & among
number them whose [illegible] attachment I value more
than yours

[illegible] pt my best [illegible]

W. H. [illegible]

P. S. Colo[illegible] to answer 'the Friend of truth' [illegible] you to be interested in the *Herald*. I mention this in confidence. He will answer effectually.

Return me Chandler's letter.

Brig. Gen. Tupper.

particularly, which will always be ready to [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] a like nature. To those who entertain a just sense of the [illegible] of the common [illegible] should constitute a sufficient motive for the discharge of all the duties which appertain to the character of the patriot & citizen.

I am Gentlemen with [illegible] respect

Your Humble [illegible]

W. H. [illegible]

Messrs Spear S. Tipton
Stanislaus Lanscher
&
Daniel Spear.

Committee for the Windham
the battle of Hyde Park

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